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• DOMINION LEGISLATURE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

The Speaker

The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar.

The Deputy Speaker

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, M.C.A.

Secretary

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

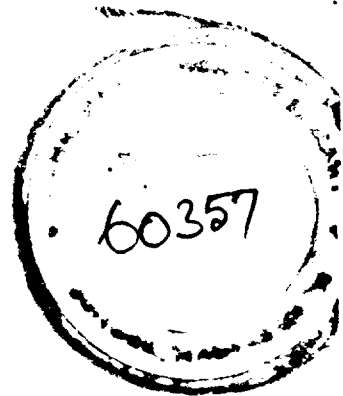
Assistants of the Secretary

Mr. A. J. M. Atkinson.

Mr. N. C. Nandi.

Mr. D. N. Majumdar.

Mr. C. V. Narayana Rao.



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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

- The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru—Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs.
The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel—Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs and the States.
The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad—Minister of Education.
The Honourable Dr. John Matthai—Minister of Finance.
The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh—Minister of Defence.
The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram—Minister of Labour.
The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai—Minister of Communications.
The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur—Minister of Health.
The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar—Minister of Law.
The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee—Minister of Industry and Supply.
The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil—Minister of Works, Mines and Power.
The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy—Minister of Commerce.
The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar—Minister of Transport and Railways.
The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram—Minister of Food and Agriculture.

MINISTERS NOT IN THE CABINET

- The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena—Minister of State for Rehabilitation.
The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam—Minister of State for Transport and Railways.
The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar—Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting.
The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha—Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.

DEPUTY MINISTERS

- Shri Khurshed Lal—Deputy Minister of Communications.
Dr. B. V. Keskar—Deputy Minister of External Affairs.

THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY (LEGISLATIVE)

Volume IV—1949

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Monday, 28th November, 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at New Delhi, at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, being the First day of the Sixth Session of the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative), pursuant to subsection (2) (a) of Section 19 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947. Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) was in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

REMOVAL OF JEWELLERY BY GENERAL DELVOIE

*1. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the result of the communication from the Government of India to the U.N.C.I.P. referred to in his statement in the House on the 5th October, 1949 in the matter of General Delvoie who removed jewellery boxes from the Lloyds Bank, Srinagar, for delivery to Sardar A. R. Effendi at Rawalpindi who is considered an evacuee and an enemy by the Jammu and Kashmir Government?

(b) Has General Delvoie been asked by the U.N. Commission to explain his conduct and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). The report to the United Nations Commission was that Lt.-Gen. Delvoie removed from Srinagar to Rawalpindi seven boxes which had been deposited in a local Bank in the name of Begum Effendi, wife of Sardar Effendi who is an evacuee from Kashmir and was declared an enemy agent by the Government of that State. The Government of India have no direct knowledge of the contents of the removed boxes. It is understood that General Delvoie has returned to Belgium on expiry of his term.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: When was this gentleman declared an enemy agent? How was the bank able to hand over the jewellery to General Delvoie? Did he take the permission of the Government of Kashmir?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We have no information that there was any jewellery involved. They consisted of certain trunks and boxes. This is a matter in which no doubt the Kashmir Government will be enquiring. The boxes were deposited privately, I presume. As to how far the Bank is in error, I believe the Kashmir Government is enquiring into.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Government of India lodged any protest with the U.N.O. and has any reply been received from them?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just read in my reply that we brought the facts to the notice of the United Nations Commission. Now that Gen. Delvoie has actually gone back to Belgium there is no particular matter involved, I believe in our pursuing this enquiry.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it a fact that prior to the removal of the jewellery Gen. Delvoie was regularly removing other household effects from Srinagar and handing them over to Begum Effendi at Rawalpindi? How long was he doing this?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know anything about the jewellery referred to several times by Honourable Members. The Honourable Member said "prior to the removal of jewellery" as if that was taken for granted. All I know is that on two or three occasions bits of furniture were taken away and then these boxes, which according to him contained clothes were removed.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: When was it brought to the notice of the Government that Sardar Effendi's household effects were being removed?

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Have Government got any information as to whether the Agents of the Lloyds Bank had entered into a conspiracy with Gen. Delvoie in removing these household effects?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Does the General still continue to function as an officer of the United Nations Commission?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. He has completed his term and has gone back to Belgium.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was any assurance given to the Government of India by the U.N. Commission that in future whoever might be sent to India by the Commission would not be allowed to behave in this manner?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member must realise that the Government of India does not demand any assurances from the U.N. Commission. When there is any difficulty or any such occurrence they bring it to the notice of the Commission or the authorities concerned, who give the fullest attention to it and thus the matter is settled. As to what happened in this case—I do not exactly know the details and the Kashmir Government no doubt are seized of it—it may have been an error on the part of Gen. Delvoie not knowing certain facts. It may have been an act of error on his part or something else. Anyhow the fact that Gen. Delvoie's term has expired and he has gone back to Belgium puts an end to the matter so far as we are concerned.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Did the Government of Jammu and Kashmir in their report to the Government of India inform them whether Sardar Effendi was an enemy agent or not or that they had declared him as such?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India got to know the facts after the incident, not before. We did not know anything about it before the event.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Did not the Government of Jammu and Kashmir make a report to that effect to the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, they did after the incident, not before.

BUILDING FOR INDIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON

***2. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have purchased a building for Indian embassy in London? If so, what is the cost of the building and for what purpose is it meant?

(b) Will the office of the High Commissioner be located in this building?

(c) Where is the High Commissioner residing at present, and if it is in a rented building, what is the rent thereof?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes. The cost of the building, including cost of repairs, alterations and additions required for occupation is £60,000. The building is meant to be used as an Embassy.

(b) No.

(c) The High Commissioner is residing at present in a small room attached to his office in India House, where he intends staying on.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether this building was actually purchased or leased for some period?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It has been leased for a period of forty-two years.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is this £60,000 an outright payment or is there any annual payment besides this?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, there is an annual payment of £575, which is the ground rent.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How much will the extension and the furnishing of the building cost?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No extension. I understand that the fixtures—carpets, accessories, etc.—are estimated to cost £12,000.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: And the furnishing?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is all.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it contemplated to extend the building?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Was this deal passed by the Standing Finance Committee of this House?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I presume it was. I cannot say from memory.

Shri B. L. Sondhi: I am here to contradict that statement. It was never passed.

Mr. Speaker: There is no occasion for any contradiction.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: The Standing Committee of the External Affairs Ministry was appraised of the fact and they approved of the purchase.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There appears to be some misapprehension about this matter. There has been no better bargain on behalf of the External Affairs Ministry than this purchase of this building. I personally went into this matter in London. The Secretary-General went into it and rather over-ruled our High Commissioner—over-ruled in the sense that the latter insisted that so far as he was concerned it should not be intended for him. In all the great capitals we have embassies, not only for the ambassadors but

for eminent men who go from here and who have to spend a great deal of money by living in hotels, etc. So it was considered essential that we should buy this building. This particular building is in the diplomatic quarter, if I may say so: it is in Kensington Park Gardens and we have obtained it on extraordinarily favourable terms. It is a very fine building and is an investment which we can dispose of at any time at a much greater price.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the High Commissioner has been staying in India House itself and therefore the Government of India was not put to any cost on account of his residence in the last two years?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, of course, as I said, the High Commissioner is staying in a small room attached to his office, for which he is paying rent to the Government of India.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In view of the fact that the High Commissioner is not living in that building, may I know what use this building is going to be put to?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That quarter is meant for residential purposes of diplomats. There are various embassies, of countries great and small and one of the conditions is that no office should be opened there. But it was made clear that we can use it for any residential purpose. Apart from the High Commissioner other members of the staff or guests or people going from India can use it for residential or like purpose.

SHIP-BUILDING YARDS

*3. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain ship-building experts have come from foreign countries to report on the development of shipbuilding yards in India?

(b) If so, have they submitted their report and have Government examined it?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, a French firm of Naval Engineers was asked to advise Government on the possibility of establishing in India one or more new ship-building yards. Their report has been received and is being examined. The question of establishing new ship-building yards has been postponed for the time being.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What are the recommendations of this Expert Committee?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Their first recommendation is in relation to the future of the Ship-yard of Scindias and second with regard to the possibility of building other ship-yards in other parts of India.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what scheme the Government have dropped, or have they dropped the future expansion of the ports?

* **The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** It has been decided definitely that in view of the present financial difficulties we will not have any other ship-building yards under government control or management. So far as the question of helping Scindias is concerned, that matter is under examination now.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Have the experts visited the Vizagapatam Ship-building yard and reported on it, and if so, what is the nature of that report?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They visited it a number of times and have submitted reports as regards the way it should be developed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government considered the possibility of coming to a final decision in regard to the Vizagapatam Ship-building yard before the time expires for the building of the present steamer yard, or whatever it is, which is under construction?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It has been decided that it will not be possible for Government to acquire the yard for the present. But we are considering how it may be possible to keep the work in the yard going on. That matter is now under discussion with Scindias.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: May I know how many places the experts have examined and whether their report will be made available to the members of this House?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have no objection. I shall make it available to members of the House.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the total cost of the Mission that has made its report?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not got the figures here, but the total cost will not be more than a lakh of rupees.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Sir, I would like to delete question No. 4 to enable me to put question No. 6.

Mr. Speaker: I am doubtful whether it will be permissible. We will go by the order.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Last time you kindly allowed me.

Mr. Speaker: This time I may allow, without creating a precedent.

FOREIGN CAPITAL

*5. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total number of applications received from foreign capitalists for starting industries in India after the announcement by the Prime Minister on investment of foreign capital?

(b) What is the total amount of foreign capital likely to be invested?

(c) How many of these applications have been admitted and how many rejected?

(d) What is the nature of the industries which are likely to be established through this capital?

(e) What are the conditions laid down for the establishment of these industries and when are they likely to be started?

(f) Have Government agreed to the establishment in India of a number of factories by British concerns for the production of consumer goods and if so, what are the details thereof?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Fifty-nine.

(b) Nearly Rs. 183 lakhs on schemes already sanctioned.

(c) Admitted—37, Pending—19, Rejected—3.

(d) and (f). Electrical (including Radios), Iron and Steel products, Vanaspati, Woollens, General Engineering, Automobiles, Paints and Varnishes, Printing and Finishing, Paper and Strawboard, Leather goods, Raw Films, Non-ferrous metals, Fine Chemicals, Footwear, Ivory Buttons, Sports goods. Foreign participants mostly belong to the U.K.

(e) Generally the conditions laid down are (i) majority of Indian capital, (ii) Indian management and (iii) Indian technicians to be trained by the foreign technicians so that the latter may be eventually replaced by the former. The schemes may take three to five years to materialise.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know how many of these applications are from U.K. and U.S.A. and the other countries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Most of them are from U.K.—none from U.S.A.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the American Ambassador in Madras stated that there would be no rush of capital into India unless it is to the mutual interest of both? Has Government's attention been drawn to it?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well, obviously it must be to the mutual interest of both.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Has any application been received from the industrialists in U.S.A.?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Not in this list.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: With regard to part (e) is it one of the conditions that these industries may be purchased by Indians at any time we choose?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There cannot be a condition like that, but it is always open for Indians to purchase them by mutual agreement.

Shri B. Das: May I know how many of these applications are in the stage of actual negotiation and how many of them are in the stage of mere application only?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: All these cases are mature and sanction has been given after consideration of the different conditions.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Apart from the statement of the Prime Minister in the House, what other attempts have been made to invite foreign capital to this country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are receiving offers from individual firms. And our representatives abroad are also negotiating with firms which may possibly come here. There are private industrialists also who are in negotiation and we render every possible assistance.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know the details about the negotiations carried on in U.S.A. in this regard?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There have been no special negotiations with U.S.A. as such.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: In sanctioning some of these applications did the Government consider this aspect that the sanctioned industries will not adversely affect the Indian industries that are already in existence?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is one of the considerations which is always kept in view by Government.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Is it not a fact that some out of the applications which have been sanctioned relate to industries which are already in existence in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well, obviously with regard to some of them the industries are already functioning in the country. But when new enterprise comes from foreign countries we see to it that the industries already functioning in India are not adversely affected.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it not a fact that certain licences have been granted to foreign firms in respect of industries that have been already developed here by indigenous firms and that Indians have grown apprehensive of this competition?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Every such case is considered on its merits and we are in close touch with the industries already functioning in India.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Will the interest and ownership and effective control of the undertakings be in Indian hands?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have already answered it. In some cases they are. In regard to foreign concerns it is for a limited number of years.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know the period limit fixed for foreign concerns?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is difficult to give an answer to that question. Conditions are attached to each enterprise. But that is one factor which is borne in mind.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many of these industries are expected to produce goods which we have been importing from U.S.A. and other hard currency areas?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe there are some industries in respect of which we are getting the goods from hard currency areas, like automobiles. But it is very difficult to indicate as to how far the imports from the dollar areas will be affected, though some of the consumer goods that we are getting from the foreign dollar countries will necessarily be avoided in future.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has no special attention been paid to the fact that in view of U.S.A. being a hard currency area, diversion or planting of such industries may be allowed for the U.K. so as to relieve the burden of importing from U.S.A. and other hard currency areas?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is very difficult to concentrate on that aspect though it is borne in mind. There is no article which comes exclusively from the dollar area. But if we produce more in this country, the demand on the dollar areas will be reduced to that extent.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: With regard to part (e) may I know whether it is bare majority of shares by Indians or whether a certain percentage is fixed and whether it is uniform in the case of all industries or whether it differs from industry to industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It differs from unit to unit.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC MACHINERY

*6. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that he has recommended a Delegation to proceed to Japan for negotiating the purchase of Hydro-Electric machinery?

(b) If so, when is this Delegation likely to proceed to Japan and what are the conditions laid down for the purchase of machinery?

(c) Have they been entrusted to place definite orders with Japanese firms?

(d) Which country produces the best type of Hydro-Electric machinery?

(e) Has any order been placed with any country so far for this article and if so, what are the details?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

(d) No categorical statement can be made.

(e) The Central Government have not placed any orders abroad, but some Provincial Governments have done so. For example, the Madras Government

has ordered from America hydro-electric machinery worth about Rs. 50 lakhs for their Machkund Project. The East Punjab Government has also placed orders on that country for machinery worth about Rs. 6 crores for their Bhakra-Nangal Project. I am afraid full information regarding the orders placed by the various Provincial Governments is not immediately available, but it can be collected if the Honourable Member so desires.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any representation was made to the Government regarding the quality and the price of the Japanese hydro-electric machinery compared with the quality and price in other countries, and if so what is the result?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We did receive an enquiry from Japan and we are pursuing it. In fact our representative has given a report after his recent visit to Japan and it has been suggested that we might send out an engineer for the purpose of testing the quality of the goods that he may possibly get from this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What assistance has the Government of India given to the Government of Madras in obtaining the necessary equipment which they have ordered for this Machkund Project?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have secured the dollars for them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that there has been inordinate delay in obtaining the machinery for which they have placed orders and that the Government of India has not been able to give them any other assistance except saying that they are obtaining dollars for them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well, I believe the question of priorities had to be considered; there might have been some delay. I have not got the figures here, but I find permission has been given.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is there any effort to see that this machinery is manufactured in India in the near future?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As you know, we have appointed some consultant to give us a report, but that also will be a fairly expensive affair. So, I do not know what the policy of the Government will be—it is too early to say that.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Despite the expert opinion that the quality and price of Japanese machinery are superior and economic respectively compared with purchases from other countries, the Provincial Governments have purchased from other countries at higher prices. Have the Government of India drawn the attention of Provincial Governments.....

Mr. Speaker: It is more or less a question from the Provincial Government's point of view.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The point is that the Government of India is always in touch with this matter and they have to guide the Provincial Governments. May I know.....

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I cannot allow this question. It involves an expression of opinion also.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: May I know whether any order has been placed for machinery for the hydro-electric project, Jawai in Rajasthan?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I said, I have not got information from all Provincial Governments, but I suppose the Honourable Member knows it much better than I do.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I would like to have information from the Honourable Minister as to what orders have been placed.

Mr. Speaker: He has promised it and the Honourable Member will get the information.

SALT TO NEPAL

***7. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have authorised Indian Exporters to export salt to Nepal?

(b) How many exporters have been authorised to export salt to Nepal?

(c) How many wagons of salt have been exported daily to Nepal since the 24th November, 1948?

(d) Are Government aware that most of the wagons of salt have been taken over to North Bihar where it is sold at abnormally high prices?

(e) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to stop this practice?

(f) Is it a fact that this irregularity has been brought to the notice of:

(i) The Salt Controller for India, Industry and Supply Department, New Delhi;

(ii) The Chief Controller of Railway Priorities, Ministry of Transport, New Delhi;

(iii) The Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi; and

(iv) The Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Fairlie Place, Calcutta?

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

(b) Twenty-two.

(c) The number varied from day to day and month to month. The total number of wagons despatched during the period 24th November, 1948 to 31st October, 1949 from Sambhar, Kharaghoda, Dharangdhra and Calcutta are 1,070; 98; 858 and 364 respectively.

(d) and (e). Reports received to this effect are being investigated in consultation with the Nepal Government.

(f) (i) Yes; (ii) No; (iii) Yes; and (iv) I have no information.

U. N. MEMBERSHIP (NEPAL)

***8. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether there was any consultation between India and Nepal before the latter's application for U.N. membership was made?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Nepal sought India's support for membership of the United Nations and the Government of India promised to give whatever support was possible.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the Nepal Government feels the necessity of maintaining a close co-ordination with the India Government so far as external affairs are concerned?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: What the Nepal Government feels I do not know, but naturally it is desirable for such close co-ordination to exist.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether there has been any consultation between the India Government and the Nepal Government about getting recognition to Communist China?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir, the Nepal Government's external relations thus far, to my knowledge, are limited to two or three countries, notably the U.K. and the U.S.A. They hardly deal with the rest of the world.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Does any co-ordination exist between these two Governments on questions of foreign policy?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Nepal Government has not got very much of a foreign policy.

DIESEL ENGINES

***9. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether the S.I.M.A.D. (Syndicate of Industry, Metallurgical Agricultural Development) have submitted their project report on the possibility of establishing a factory for the manufacture of complete Diesel Engines and accessories in India?

(b) If so, what are briefly the contents of the said report?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) No, Sir, they were not asked to submit any such report.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri S. Nijalingappa: Is any diesel oil produced in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Of course we are producing.

Shri S. Nijalingappa: May I know what quantity is produced?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Our total installed capacity is 4,600 per year. We have produced between January and September, 1949, 1,380 engines and our target for next year is.....

Several Honourable Members: The question was about diesel oil. What is its quantity?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Very little. We import the diesel oil that we require.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: What are the firms that are producing these diesel oil engines?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The following are the names of those firms: Messrs Cooper Engineering Ltd., Poona; Ruston and Hornsby Ltd., Bombay; Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd., Poona; Oriental Engineering Co. Ltd., Delhi-Shahdara; Saraswati Industries Ltd., Ghaziabad.

FILM INDUSTRY (MACHINERY)

***10. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the total cost of machineries imported into India for the cinema or the film industry of the country (both for production and exhibition of films) during the years 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50 to date; and

(b) the total amount of import duty realised by Government therefrom?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Details of imports of machinery required for the cinema, or the film industry, are recorded separately in the sea-borne trade returns of India only under the following headings, viz. (i) cinema projecting apparatus and parts and accessories and (ii) sound recording apparatus and parts and accessories. A statement (No. I) showing the required information under these heads is laid on the table of the House.

(b) A statement (No. II) showing duty collected on imports of (i) cinema projecting apparatus and (ii) sound recording apparatus during the five months ended August, 1949, is also laid on the table of the House.

As these two items came to be shown independently for the first time in the Tariff schedule under the Indian Tariff Amendment Act, 1949, the figures

of import duty on these items are available from the 1st April, 1949 only. Prior to this, these items were classified under the general heads (electrical apparatus, machinery, etc.) and no separate figures of import duty in respect of these items are therefore available.

STATEMENT I

Value of (i) Cinema projecting apparatus and parts and accessories and (ii) sound recording apparatus and parts and accessories imported into India by sea from abroad, on private account, during the official years 1947-48, 1948-49 and the five months April to August 1949.

Articles	1947-48		1948-49		Five months, April to August, 1949.	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Instruments, etc.—						
Photographic—						
Cinema talkie apparatus and equipments—						
(i) Cinema Projecting apparatus and parts and accessories.	..	61,50,518	..	37,14,296	..	24,03,928
(ii) Sound recording apparatus and parts and accessories.	..	84,63,968	..	24,52,883	..	5,96,678

NOTE : The figures exclude the direct foreign sea-borne trade of the Pakistan provinces of Sind and East Bengal with effect from the 1st and the 15th August 1947, respectively. They also do not include India's sea-borne trade with Pakistan upto February 1948. From 1st April 1948 the figures relate to combined figures of trade on private and Government account. They also include the sea-borne trade of Kutch with effect from 1st June, 1948.

STATEMENT II

Import duty collected on the imports of (i) Cinema projecting apparatus, (ii) sound recording apparatus for the production of cinema films, during the five months April to August 1949.

Articles	Five months, April to August, 1949.
	Rs.
(i) Cinema projecting apparatus	1,18,764
(ii) Sound recording apparatus for the production of cinema films	15,138

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What percentage of the total imports come from hard currency areas?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Most of these imports come from hard currency areas.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether due to financial considerations Government consider that it will be required to reduce the amount of imports?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Oh, yes, as far as possible.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: What is the total amount that the country has spent on these imports during these three periods?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have given some detailed figures here in the statement, but I am afraid I have not got the totals here. If one year will do, the value of imports, as far as I can judge, for 1948-49 was over Rs. 60 lakhs.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the Government considers this film industry essential for the development of the country?

Mr. Speaker: I could not follow the question.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: He asks for an expression of opinion.

INDIAN DELEGATIONS TO AUXILIARY BODIES OF U.N.O.

*11. **Shri Arun Chandra Guha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many delegations to the different auxiliary bodies of the U.N.O. have been sent by India during the last two years, i.e., from 15th August, 1947 and what are they?

(b) What have been the expenses on account of these delegations?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) and (b). The information required by the Honourable Member so far as the period 15th August, 1947 to March, 1949 is concerned will be found in the answers given to and statements laid on the table of the House in reply to the following questions:

(i) Question No. 685, replied to on 11th March, 1943 regarding delegations sent abroad from September, 1946 to March, 1948.

(ii) Question No. 747 replied to on 2nd September, 1948 regarding delegations sent abroad from 1st January, 1948 to August, 1948.

(iii) Question No. 1633, replied to on 5th April, 1949 regarding delegations sent abroad from 1st April, 1948 to 31st March, 1949.

Information for the period from 1st April, 1949 to 14th August, 1949 will be placed on the table of the House as soon as the various items of expenditure connected with the delegations during this period have been finally adjusted by the Accountant General, Central Revenues.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: I am not asking about all the delegations. I am only asking about those delegations to the auxiliary bodies connected with the U.N.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I am saying with regard to the U.N. bodies.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I say that the number of times we have placed statements giving these facts before the House will certainly run into two figures. We have placed long statements which have taken a large number of people to compile. Then a question was put which covers that statement about 95 per cent. but there is a 5 per cent. difference and so the whole procedure has to be gone through because of that 5 per cent. difference. We should like to help the House in having all information that are at our disposal, but I should like Honourable Members to realize that a simple variation by a question means half a dozen people working for a fortnight, but the cost involved is great and the information is already there.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are any economies contemplated in this field of governmental activity as part of the general economy drive?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, among them is the request to members not to put unnecessary questions.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is that part of the economy drive?

Mr. Speaker: We are now entering into an argument. Next question.

SINDRI FERTILISER FACTORY

*12. **Shri Arun Chandra Guha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what was the original estimate of capital investment in the Fertiliser Factory at Sindri?

(b) What is the amount so far spent and how much would be required to complete it?

(c) How far is the construction of the factory proceeding according to the original time scale?

(d) When is the factory expected to be completed and to produce fertilisers?

(e) What would be the interest and depreciation charges for the capital invested?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The estimate of capital investment furnished by the Fertilizer Mission in 1944 was Rs. 10.5 crores.

(b) The amount spent so far is Rs. 12.31 crores. To complete the work a further sum of about Rs. 9 crores will be required.

(c) It was originally expected that the construction of the factory would take about 2½ years from the time work was effectively begun. Arrangements with the American Consultants, namely, The Chemical Construction Corporation, and the Power Gas Corporation of the U.K., were concluded in August, 1945; but it was not until May, 1947 that Government obtained possession of the site. Since then the work has been progressing fairly well and of late construction is going on at a rapid pace.

(d) The construction of the factory is expected to be completed by August, 1950. It will take nine to twelve months from then to obtain full production.

(e) About 180 lakhs.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Part (e) has not been answered.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have said about 180 lakhs.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Who is responsible for this extra expenditure of more than 100 per cent.?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well, I can give some figures. In 1944, before practically the estimate was completed, Rs. 50 lakhs had to be added to, I find, for expenses on site. Rs. 1.5 crores was added for, I think, plant. Practically in 1944-45 the figure increased from Rs. 10 crores to 12 crores and 79 lakhs. Then, later on, on account of increase in world cost of plant and machinery, there has been an increase of 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. on cost, which means an additional increase of about Rs. 6 crores. This explains about Rs. 8 crores, and so far as the rest is concerned, the cost of the factory buildings, housing sites and undertaking of some additional work accounts for it.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether estimate was originally prepared and whether orders were placed in foreign countries on the basis of those estimates? If that was so, what is the reason for this additional cost?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the price of plant and machinery are concerned, they are dependant upon prices, which fluctuated particularly at that time. The orders were originally placed at a time when the House is aware the prices were extremely uncertain. In 1944 when the contract was entered into, it was done on the basis of fluctuations which might arise during that period.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether definite price was not settled at the time the contract was placed?

Mr. Speaker: I think it has been answered.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What is the value of the fertilizer produced every year?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The total quantity will be 95,000 tons per year and the price which we are now estimating in view of the increase in the cost of production will be Rs. 200 per ton exclusive of profit.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: May I know what is the amount spent on machinery, buildings and raw materials up to date?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Rs. 12 crores.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Does this extra expenditure involve the amount that has to be incurred in the purchase of machinery on account of the recent devaluation?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Fortunately, almost the entire machinery has arrived. There is therefore no question of further increase in price.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Arising out of (c) of the Question, how much has been the delay so far as construction of the factory is concerned?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The original idea was that it will take about 2½ years, but construction really started about July-August, 1947, so there has not been much delay, but we are trying to speed up as much as possible.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: May I know what will be the price per ton of the fertilizer produced at Sindri and the price of the imported fertilizer?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It will be about Rs. 200 per ton without profit. The price of course will have to be fixed later on. We are now paying about Rs. 300 per ton for the imported fertilizer and the latest price is higher than Rs. 300.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: How does the cost and the time-table compare with that of the fertilizer factory in Travancore? Was it not started about the same time?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As the Honourable Member is aware, the fertilizer factory in Travancore is about one-seventh the size of the Sindri factory, and its original estimated cost of Rs. 1.5 crores has now gone up to Rs. 4 crores. I do not think the Sindri factory compares very unfavourably with it.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Taking the interest charges, the depreciation costs and the working costs, would this factory be a paying concern to the Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have to import fertilizer at a price ranging between Rs. 300 and 350. If we can sell fertilizer in India somewhere between Rs. 200 and 250, I think it will be a paying concern.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What was the original estimated cost of production per ton of fertilizer and what is it now? If there is any difference, what is the reason for the same?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The original estimated cost was Rs. 119 per ton, but on account of the increases I have indicated, we expect it will be about Rs. 200.

DISPLACED PERSONS FROM EASTERN PAKISTAN

*13. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons who have come over to West Bengal from Eastern Pakistan up to July, 1949;

- (b) how many of them have been rehabilitated (i) in West Bengal; and (ii) in other provinces and States; and
(c) how many are still in camps?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House. (See Appendix III, annexure No. 1.)

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that very recently the Government of Pakistan asked a well-established banking corporation in East Bengal to quit their premises within twenty-four hours?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if it arises from this question?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think so.

Shri Ram Chandra Upadhyaya: May I know the number of persons who have gone from West Bengal to East Bengal?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am afraid it does not arise from this question, but if the Honourable Member wants, the information will be supplied to him later.

Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor: May I know whether it is one-way traffic or both-way traffic?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Mostly it is one-way traffic.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: How many camps were started and how many still remain?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I think about 26 camps were started in West Bengal. It has been the policy of the Government of India not to encourage free feeding in the camps and these camps have been converted into settlements.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: In view of the harassment of the Hindus that is going on in East Bengal, is the Government of India making arrangements for receiving the evacuees who flow from East Pakistan—if they are likely to come?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I do not think it arises from this question. But if displaced persons come, arrangements will have to be made to receive them.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Have the Government received any report of fresh exodus of evacuees from East Bengal?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Government have received reports; but it is not only of Hindus, but also of Muslims. It is due to economic causes in East Bengal.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know the total expenditure incurred by the Government of West Bengal on these refugees?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: If the Honourable Member goes through the statement, he will find that under all the headings put together we have spent rupees about one crore and fifty-eight lakhs—I have, however, not put all the figures here.

The Rehabilitation Finance Administration has alone given Rs. 46.89,000 to eight hundred persons by way of loan.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Has the Central Government met any part of this expenditure?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The Central Government has paid for the whole of the expenditure.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: May I know what is the policy of the Government of India towards these Muslim emigrants who are flowing from East Bengal to West Bengal? Are they going to be rehabilitated like the Hindus?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There is no question of rehabilitating them.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I ask the Honourable Minister to read the statement, because there are only a few figures. The Honourable Minister could have easily obliged the House.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Sir, all that we want to know is the total number of displaced persons who have come to West Bengal; how many have been rehabilitated and how many are in camps. There are only three items.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Honourable members will see that this is a long statement.

Mr. Speaker: If the statement is a long one, it may be studied and questions put later on. I am going to the next question.

SALT PRODUCTION

***14. Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of salt (i) produced in India; and (ii) imported from other countries in the years 1948 and 1949;

(b) how many production centres have been started since 1947;

(c) the number of private enterprises for salt production; and

(d) whether these private enterprises receive any help from the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a). (i) Production in 1948 was 635 lakh maunds and in 1949 (up to October) 515 lakh maunds.

(ii) Imports during 1948 were 120 lakh maunds and during 1949 (up to October) 76 lakh maunds.

(b) Two factories in Kathiawar, one in Orissa and one in Madras.

(c) There are 106 private factories excluding the small scale unlicensed manufacturers.

(d) Yes. The private factories receive assistance from Government in transport, technical advice and supply of controlled constructional materials.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Will the Honourable Minister please say whether the Midnapur District produces any salt?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is very small production there.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Has the attention of the Honourable Minister been drawn to an item of news which appeared recently that India is today producing more salt to the extent of five lakh maunds?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe that in 1948 we produced 635 lakh maunds, as I have said, and our consumption was 650 lakh maunds.

Shri B. A. Khimji: Are Government aware that there are many mineral salt deposits in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is true.

Shri B. A. Khimji: Will he make investigations of these deposits and start production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Not on Government account; but we will certainly encourage private enterprises which are interested in the production of salt.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is it a fact that the West Bengal Government are in communication with a French company for salt manufacture in West Bengal?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They have suggested that an expert belonging to a French company should be invited.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Is the Government aware that there is considerable scope for the development of the salt industry in Bharatpur?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is a suggestion.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: By when do the Government of India hope India will be self-sufficient in salt?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: By 1951

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Has the Government of India taken any steps to reduce the retail price of salt in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have not imposed any control so far as prices are concerned. We have left it to the provinces to regulate the prices, in areas where prices may go up. Now they are more or less stabilised.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Sir, is it a fact that Government had appointed a Salt Committee with Mr. Sidhva as its Chairman and has the Chairman taken any steps to bring out his report?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: It is not a Committee for writing a report; it is a Committee to do practical work.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Has the Government of India approved the West Bengal Government's scheme to give contract for the manufacture of salt to a French company?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No French company has been given any contract. A French expert was invited to advise the West Bengal Government in regard to its scheme for the expansion of salt industry.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: That may be only the thin end of the wedge.

Mr. Speaker: It may be the Honourable Member's inference about it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Minister said that India would be self-sufficient in regard to salt by 1951. May I know what would be the quantity that would be produced by 1951?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That would depend on the population of India in 1951.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the consumption of salt in India is only 14 to 15 pounds per head, while the consumption in some other countries is as high as 40 pounds?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is true.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then, how does he estimate the quantity to be produced; at what rate? What is the quantity expected to be produced?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We should at least be able to produce by 1951 what we would be consuming for the whole year plus at least three months' stocks, which means in place of 645 maunds now produced it would be at least 700 maunds.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many pounds per head it works up to?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is the lowest in the world today. I do not know what exactly it will be.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it intended to keep India at the lowest level for always. How much does the Honourable Minister expect to increase the quantity?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As the Honourable Member knows it is not human beings alone that consume salt. So far as India is concerned, cattle do not get any supply of salt; in other countries such supply is provided for.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Do the Government propose to develop this industry in Bharatpur?

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Is the Honourable Minister aware that production of salt was stopped in many places in Rajputana by the order of the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Previously that was so. But now we are encouraging production there.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Has the Government of India taken steps to reopen those production centres which were closed on account of the orders of the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We would like private enterprise to play its proper part in the opening of new factories. We would invite the cooperation of the small units to whom we will give all assistance and encouragement. We shall also give encouragement to big concerns according to the overall plan of the Government of India.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Are the Government paying any compensation to the States now in Rajputana Union in lieu of stopping the production of salt in those States?

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

An Honourable Member: May I know how many co-operative societies are there for salt production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The number would not be more than 50.

Shri B. A. Khimji: Are the Government aware that monopoly exists in Cutch so far as the production of salt is concerned?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There are some very big concerns which are manufacturing salt.

Shri B. A. Khimji: Are the Government aware that monopoly exists in Cutch for the production of salt?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Under the old Government that was so.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: May I know whether the Travancore Government are proposing to nationalise the salt industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have asked them to postpone final decision and to consult us before taking final action.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know why final decision was asked to be postponed?

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Salt Advisory Committee decided that no salt should be purchased from the Pakistan Government this year and that steps should be taken by 1950 to raise the production of salt in India and whether the Government have taken any action on it?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: After devaluation no salt is coming from Pakistan.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I have an answer to my supplementary question from the Honourable Minister?

Mr. Speaker: I am proceeding to the next question now.

REFERENCE TO GITA

*15. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's Minister to the Vatican, while presenting his credentials to His Holiness, the Pope, stated that "it did not much matter if all the copies of the Bhagavad Gita were burnt, so long as we had the Sermon on the Mount", passing it off as an utterance of Mahatma Gandhi; and

(b) if not, what was the exact reference to the Gita in his speech on the occasion?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The statement made by India's Minister to Vatican, on the occasion of presenting his credentials, was unfortunate and the Government did not approve of it and informed him so. It is clear however that the Minister meant no disrespect to the Gita, but was emphasizing that the essence of all religions was alike and truth was not a monopoly of any one religion.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is a person who decries the Gita or the Hindu religion or, for the matter of that, any other religion, considered fit to represent India abroad?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Minister is a person who is not only a Hindu, but is a person who is proud of being a Hindu. He has decried nothing. He has rather used unfortunate language.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that in spite of his having committed this *faux pas* before the Pontiff, his jurisdiction has been enlarged recently, and he has been appointed Minister to Austria as well?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As our Minister accredited to Switzerland, he was asked to represent us at the Vatican. He has done extraordinarily good work there and, every person who has been there and seen his work has appreciated it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have the Government enquired whether the Indian Minister to the Vatican, before he made a statement on the Gita, had read both the Gita and the Sermon on the Mount, or at least either of them or whether he was merely talking through his hat?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the yardstick or criterion of an ambassador's fitness?

Mr. Speaker: I think the Honourable Member is now arguing. He has got the information he wanted.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am only asking for a statement of fact. I am asking what are the criteria for the selection of ambassadors.

Mr. Speaker: Next question, No. 16.

RECOGNITION OF COMMUNIST CHINA

*16. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Communist-controlled China has approached the Government of India for recognition of their State; and

(b) if so, at what stage the matter rests?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Yes; a communication from the new Government has been received through our ambassador in Nanking, acquainting us with the establishment of the Central People's Government of the Republic of China, stating that the new Government is the only legal Government of China and expressing the desire of the new Government to set up diplomatic relations with all Governments which will abide by the principles of equality, mutual interest, and mutual respect for territorial and sovereign rights.

(b) The Government of India have informed the Government of the People's Central Republic of China that they are studying the situation that has arisen and in this connection have summoned their Ambassador in Nanking for consultations. The Government of India have expressed the hope that informal contacts would meanwhile continue to be maintained between the newly formed Government and our Consular representatives.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the various criteria which are applied in the recognition of a new State?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I cannot permit that question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How is it that the recognition of a State like Israel which has been established and which the Prime Minister said the other day 'has come to stay' been delayed so long?

Mr. Speaker: The question does not arise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I want to know the criteria for the recognition of a State.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: May I ask whether the Government of India are likely to come to a decision on the question of recognition of this new State?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Soon, I hope Sir.

Prof. Shibban Lal Sakseena: Will our recognition of China depend upon her recognition by Britain and the United States of America?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. It will be decided by us when we think fit.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is the Government in consultation with the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth Nations with regard to the recognition of China?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India, like all other Governments, are in frequent consultation with each other about the happenings in various parts of the world. In regard to this too there have been communications addressed to each other frequently.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: On this particular question, I want to know whether our Government are in consultation with the other Governments of the Commonwealth?

Mr. Speaker: It has been answered.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether the Honourable the Prime Minister, in the course of his visit to the United States and the United Kingdom discussed this question of the recognition of China?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is a difficult question to answer unless I speak at great length. We discussed matters naturally. But when

I go to the United Nations and I meet representatives and hold talks with them, things are not discussed from the point of view of any particular action to be taken by this country or that. Matters like this are for each country to decide. But when people dealing with foreign affairs meet, they discuss almost all important matters in the world.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What is the general impression of the Prime Minister about the United States of America and the United Kingdom regarding the recognition to be given to China?

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow that question.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Is this an item on the agenda of the Foreign Ministers' Conference to be held in Colombo?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. It is not.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: What are the points to be considered by Government in regard to the grant of recognition to the Red China Government?

Mr. Speaker: Grant of recognition? What is the information the Honourable Member wants?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What are the points that are to be considered? I think he means, what are the difficulties, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

COTTON IMPORT

*17. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to substitute Pakistan cotton in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that there have been consultations with the Egyptian Government for importing Egyptian cotton into India; and

(c) whether the rates of raw cotton from countries other than Pakistan will be more favourable in view of the Sterling devaluation and Pakistan's subsequent monetary stand?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The following steps have been taken to increase cotton production in the Indian Union with a view to reducing our dependence on Pakistan for cotton: (i) increase in the acreage under cotton; (ii) increase in yield per acre with the aid of fertilizers; (iii) mixed cropping of cotton with groundnut; and (iv) distribution of improved seeds.

Government will also consider the question of importing cotton of similar staples from abroad, to make up the deficiency, should such a step be considered necessary in the interests of the country.

(b) Yes. We have concluded a Trade Agreement with Egypt which provides *inter alia* for import of Egyptian cotton.

(c) As the cost of cotton in various countries including Pakistan fluctuates widely from time to time it is difficult to say whether the cost of comparable grades of cotton of any country is more favourable than that of another.

PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS IN INDIA

*18. **Shri B. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what is the latest position as regards Portuguese possessions in India?

(b) Have the Government of India received specific news of harassments in these possessions?

(c) Has there been any Indo-Portuguese talk on the subject of Portuguese possessions in India?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) There have been no important developments recently.

(b) From time to time the Government of India have seen such reports in the Press.

(c) No formal conversations have yet taken place.

APPROPRIATION OF MONEY TOWARDS JINNAH FUND

*19. **Shri B. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in many cases the cash collected by the Pakistan Government towards the rent and sale of refugee property has been appropriated by them towards the Jinnah Fund without the sanction of the owner concerned; and

(b) if so, what steps Government contemplate to take in the matter?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The Government of India have no information. Enquiries are, however, being made.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

ACCIDENTS IN MILLS AND FACTORIES

*20. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of accidents resulting in death or injury to limbs which occurred in the various Mills and Factories employing labour in India and how many sufferers have been paid compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Two statements giving the latest available information are laid on the table of the House. (See Appendix III, annexure No. 2). The statement giving statistics of compensation paid under the Workmen's Compensation Act is wider in scope than the statement relating to accidents, as compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act is payable not only to workmen in factories, but also to workmen in other employment, e.g., mines, railways and other transport service, ports construction works, etc. Separate figures of compensation paid for accidents in factories are not available.

COTTAGE INDUSTRY EMPORIUM

*21. **Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what the total amount of sale in the Cottage Industries Emporium since its inception has been?

(b) What item of article had the largest sale so far and what is the amount realised from such sale?

(c) What is the percentage of margin, if any, of the sale price over the purchase price?

(d) What is the monthly expense of running the Emporium?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Rs. 36,013 up to 30th September, 1949.

(b) Textiles and textile goods Rs. 15,606-1-3 up to 30th September, 1949.

(c) Up to 12½ per cent. on different consignments.

(d) Approximately Rs. 3,300-0-0.

ECONOMY IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

*22. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what steps the Ministry of External Affairs have taken to economise expenditure in the working of that Ministry?

(b) What will be the total saving during the year 1949-50 as a result of the steps taken, if any?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Several measures have been adopted to effect economy in expenditure including the postponement of the opening of a number of new posts and the abolition of representation at Songkhla. The other measures taken comprise mainly of keeping the vacant posts unfilled, combination of two or more posts into one, curtailment of expenditure on telegrams, rents for residences, furniture, travelling charges (both tour and transfer) and postponement of all new works' projects except those considered inescapable. The heads of Missions and posts abroad have also been asked to explore further possibilities of economy in the working of their offices.

(b) It is anticipated that the steps taken will reduce the expenditure during the year 1949-50 by Rs. 27·95 lakhs.

AMERICAN AID FOR INDIAN INDUSTRIES

*23. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state his views on the attitude of the Government of the United States of America and the people of the United States of America on the question of industrial development in India and the raising of the standard of living of the Indian people?

(b) Do the Government of the United States of America and the American people in general propose to offer practical help towards the industrial development of India?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) and (b). It is not for the Prime Minister to declare the policy or the attitude of the Government and the people of the United States of America. It was clear to him, however, during his visit to the United States that both the Government and the people of the United States of America were in favour of the industrial development of India and the raising of the standard of living of the Indian people. It was frequently stated that they would like to offer practical help to this end.

SALT SHORTAGE

*24. **Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether there is any actual shortage of salt in the country at present?

(b) What has been the increased production in the first nine months of this year?

(c) What is the reason for the occasional disappearance of salt from the open market in important places like Calcutta and Bombay in recent months?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes. Against our estimated total requirement of 648 lakh maunds, the estimated production in 1949 is 601 lakh maunds.

(b) There has been no increase due to unfavourable weather conditions. A comparative statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The disappearance was the result of a run on retail shops in Bombay and Calcutta due to the circulation of baseless rumours. There were no physical shortages of salt in Bombay or Calcutta at that or at any other time in recent months.

STATEMENT

Comparative production of salt in India during nine months, January-September in 1948 and 1949

Sources .	Production in Lakh Maunds				Estimated production in 1949
	1948	January to September 1948	January to September 1949	%age of increase(+) decrease(-)	
<i>Government Sources.</i>					
Rajputana	1,18	1,13	99	-12%	113
Kharaghoda	37	37	51	+38%	45
TOTAL OF GOVT. FACTORIES	1,55	1,50	1,50	..	158
<i>Private Factories :</i>					
Bombay	1,24	1,23	97	-21%	105
Madras	2,22	2,13	1,31	-38%	178
Orissa	6	6	10	+66%	14
Kathiawar	1,12	98	1,00	+8%	127
Kutch			1	..	1
Mundli			14	..	18
Travancore	16	14	14	..	18
TOTAL OF PRIVATE FACTORIES	4,80	4,54	3,59	-21%	443
GRAND TOTAL OF INDIA	6,35	6,04	5,09	-16%	601

YARN AND CLOTH

*25. **Shri C. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what were the quantities of yarn and cloth lying in textile mills as on 1st October, 1949?

(b) What steps have been taken to clear these stocks?

(c) Is there any proposal to review the position as to the necessity for continuing the controls on yarn and cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The stocks on 1st October were as follows:

Cloth 347,180 bales.

Yarn 182,953 bales.

This includes 211,500 bales of cloth and 64,580 bales of yarn being the production for September.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) Government do not think that the present situation calls for any fundamental revision of the policy of textile control. The situation is however, being kept under constant watch.

Statement

(1) Mills which have closed down have been allowed to sell their entire existing stocks through licensed trade channels. If they reopen within a month, they will be allowed to sell their entire new production through licensed trade channels also for a period of three months for the present.

(2) All Mills have been allowed to sell to licensed buyers of their own choice goods produced in October or earlier months, which have not been purchased by the Provincial and State nominees.

(3) Mills can open their own shops on such conditions as may be approved by the Textile Commissioner in consultation with the local Governments.

(4) Mills are free to sell one-third of their production in each variety other than production for export or production against Government of India orders through licensed trade channels without prior reference to the Textile Commissioner. Provincial and State Governments have been instructed not to place any restrictions on the marketing of this cloth and yarn except that the same must not be sold at a price exceeding the controlled maximum retail price.

(5) The balance of the production will be available for Provincial and State Governments for purchase and distribution through agencies controlled or nominated by them till the 15th of the month following that in which the cloth or yarn is produced. If Provincial and State nominees fail to lift the quota within that period, the mills will be free to sell such quota to licensed buyers of their choice.

(6) Licences for export of cloth and yarn to all countries are freely issued.

ASSISTANCE TO TIBET

*26. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any representations have been received from Tibet for any sort of assistance, economic or financial?

(b) If so, what is the nature of the request of the Tibetan Government?

(c) What action do Government propose to take in the matter?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) No.

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

MERCHANT NAVY OFFICERS TRAINING

*27. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether the Merchant Navy Officers Training Committee has submitted its final report?

(b) If so, what are its recommendations?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take for implementing them?

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

(b) Copies of the report are available in the Library of the House. The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the summary of the Committee's recommendations at pages 24-25 of the final report.

(c) Recommendations Nos. (1) to (12) concerning pre-Sea and post sea training have already been accepted and implemented by the Government. The remaining recommendations were made in the last two reports of the Committee, which were received by the Government only recently. These recommendations are under consideration and every endeavour will be made to reach early decisions on them.

W/COMDR. SMITH'S SRINAGAR VISIT

*28. **Shri B. N. Munavalli:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the account given by Wing Commander F. M. Smith of his entry into Kashmir, published in *The Sunday*

Statesman, dated 9th October 1949, under the heading W/Cmdr. Smith's story of his Srinagar visit;

(b) whether the facts stated in his account are correct;

(c) whether W/Cmdr. F. M. Smith is attached to the Royal Pakistan Air Force; and

(d) whether his *bona fides* as regards his entry into Kashmir were checked up by the Kashmir Police with the authorities in Delhi and if so, with what results?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) The facts stated in the report in *The Statesman* are substantially correct except that the Wing Commander's mistake was in making the journey to Srinagar after the period allowed in his permit.

(c) Wing Commander Smith is not attached to the Royal Pakistan Air Force; he is attached to Royal Air Force.

(d) Yes; and, as a result, a return permit was issued to him.

MISS JINNAH'S PROPERTIES IN INDIA

***29. Shri B. N. Munavalli:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Miss Fatima Jinnah, sister of the late Mr. M. A. Jinnah, had made a request to the Government of India, for the exchange of her property in India with the properties in Karachi of two prominent displaced persons; and

(b) if so, whether Miss Fatima's request was granted and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The Government of India have received no direct request from Miss Fatima Jinnah, but certain parties in India, desirous of exchanging their property in Pakistan with the property of Miss Fatima Jinnah in India, approached the Government of India for allowing an exchange.

(b) No question of granting Miss Fatima Jinnah's request arises. The request of the parties who approached the Government of India was not acceded to as in view of the present attitude of Pakistan Government, the Government of India's policy, for the time being, is not to permit individual sales and exchanges.

EDUCATIONAL LOAN TO DISPLACED STUDENTS

***30. Shri B. N. Munavalli:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state what is the number of displaced students and trainees respectively province-wise, to whom educational loans were granted by Government?

(b) What is the amount of educational loans so far advanced to displaced students and trainees?

(c) What is the period for repayment of such loans?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Complete figures for all the Provinces and States are not available and are being collected.

(b) Over Rs. 35 lakhs have been advanced to displaced students upto September, 1949. A detailed statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The period of repayment is four years, but the Provincial Governments may extend the period by not more than two years in deserving cases.

STATEMENT.

Advances given to displaced students upto September, 1949

	Rs.
1. Ajmer-Merwara	
2. Bombay	5,090
3. Delhi	88,750
4. East Punjab	3,87,471
5. Himachal Pradesh	22,76,576
6. Madras	465
7. Mysore State	42,225
8. Rajasthan Union	356
9. U.P.	11,650
10. West Bengal	54,407
	6,52,634
	35,19,624

Details from C.P. are not available. In Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Coorg, Bhopal, Bilaspur (State), Saurashtra, Vindhya Pradesh, Hyderabad, and the Union of Travancore and Cochin, no educational loans have been advanced so far.

EVICTED OF REFUGEES

***31. { Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:**

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the House Building Controller of Delhi Province ordered the Refugees to vacate quarters in Pusa Road Colony and got them forcibly turned out with the assistance of the Police?

(b) Was any alternative accommodation provided for them?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) If the question refers to displaced persons who had taken unauthorised possession of the newly built houses the reply is in the affirmative.

(b) No.

TEA (EXPORT)

***32. { Sardar Bham Singh:
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:**

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what is the quantity of tea exported to the United States of America, Canada and other dollar areas from India during the period from 1st April to 1st November, 1949, and what is the amount of dollar earned thereby?

(b) What are the different amounts of dollar earned by export of other commodities from India item by item during the same period?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) According to the latest figures available, during the period from 1st April, 1949 to 30th September, 1949 a quantity of 13.3 million lbs. of tea valued at Rs. 220 lakhs has been exported to the U.S.A. and for the same period the quantity exported to Canada is 8.7 million lbs. valued at Rs. 138 lakhs.

Figures beyond September 1949 and separate figures for other countries in dollar areas are not at present available.

(b) I lay on the table a statement containing the required information.

STATEMENT

Dollars expressed in rupee value earned by the export of other commodities for the period April-September 1949 to dollar area are as follows:—

	Rs. in lakhs.
(1) Jute Manufactures	1,795
(2) Spices	166
(3) Mica	126
(4) Lac	110
(5) Manganese Ores	145
(6) Hides & Skins Raw	92
(7) Hides & Skins Tanned	15
(8) Jute Raw	11
(9) Cotton Raw	38
(10) Cotton Waste	25
(11) Woollen Manufactures	30
(12) Others	381
TOTAL	2,934

AID TO BURMA

*33. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state as to what negotiations have been carried on with Burma for rendering assistance to her to establish peace and order?

(b) What material or financial aid or guarantees, if any, have been given to the Burmese Government?

(c) What was the number of Indians in Burma at the end of 1946 and how many of them have since migrated to India?

(d) What steps, if any, have Government taken to safeguard the interest of those Indians who still remain in Burma?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). Discussions have taken place, from time to time, between the Burmese Government and Governments of the Commonwealth countries about assisting Burma to enable her to establish law and order in the country. The Government of India have supplied the Burmese Government with limited quantities of stores and equipment for the purpose, on payment by that Government. No financial assistance has been given. No guarantees of any nature have been asked for by the Government of Burma, nor have any been given.

(c) The estimated Indian population in Burma at the end of 1946 was about 7 lakhs. The net migration from Burma to India from 1st January 1947 to date is about 50,000.

(d) The Indian Embassy in Rangoon look after the interests of Indians in Burma and give them such assistance as they require. The Embassy keeps in constant touch with the Government of Burma.

BAN ON DISPOSAL OF VEHICLES

*34. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disposal of vehicles at Dehu Road was banned by the Ministry of Rehabilitation and what is the number of vehicles affected by the ban;

(b) the reasons why ban on the said vehicles was imposed by the Ministry of Rehabilitation; and

(c) the depreciation in value of the vehicles caused by the imposition of ban?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes. 2,281 vehicles also at Dehu Road came under the ban.

(b) The ban on vehicles, as on other stores, was imposed under a Cabinet decision with a view to utilising them in connection with Relief and Rehabilitation of displaced persons.

(c) The Ministry of Rehabilitation took over some vehicles—in all they have taken 78 vehicles so far. The condition of the balance has certainly been affected by the lapse of time, but the exact extent of depreciation cannot be gauged until vehicles are re-examined individually.

SIKKIM AND BHUTAN (INTEGRATION)

*35. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what the position of (i) Sikkim and (ii) Bhutan is, with regard to their integration with the Indian Dominion?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The position of Sikkim and Bhutan is as follows:—

(i) *Sikkim*.—Sikkim has long been treated as an Indian State but with a special position in view of its geographical situation. Political relations between India and Sikkim date from about 1817 and, until the transfer of power in August 1947, were regulated by a Treaty signed in 1861. Since the transfer of power, these relations have been governed by a Standstill Agreement, which, broadly speaking, keeps the old arrangements alive until a new Treaty has been negotiated. Future Constitutional relations between India and Sikkim have not yet been settled and are under consideration.

(ii) *Bhutan*.—Bhutan does not belong to the category of Indian States in the usual sense of the term. Before the conclusion of the new treaty between the Governments of India and Bhutan, which was signed at Darjeeling on the 8th August 1949, the main instruments governing India's relations with Bhutan were the Sinchula Treaty of 1865 as amended by the treaty of 1910, between the former Government of India and Government of Bhutan. Under the new treaty of 8th August 1949 the Government of Bhutan continues to be guided by the Government of India in regard to its external relations, and the Government of India do not interfere in the internal administration of Bhutan.

TRADE COMMISSIONERS AND COMMERCIAL ADVISERS

*36. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the names, qualifications, age and salaries (including allowances and other amenities, such as rent-free house, free conveyance, etc.) of Trade Commissioners, Assistant Trade Commissioners and Commercial Advisers for India in foreign countries?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Sir, I lay on the table of the House a statement containing the required information. (See Appendix III annexure No. 3).

FRENCH MAHE ADMINISTRATION

*37. **Shri P. Kunhiraman:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some officers of the Public Works and Police Departments of the French Mahe Administration trespassed on the territory of the Indian Union and effected certain improvements thereon and are still in possession of the plot of land;

(b) if so, what action, if any, was taken by the Government of India in this matter;

(c) whether it is a fact that the French Government in Mahe is claiming the said plot of land as their own; and

(d) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government of India in this regard?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) to (d). Early in October, the French Public Works Department started repairs to a portion of the road inside Indian territory on the Mahe border on the northern bank of the Mahe river. The Madras Government, however, soon afterwards re-established possession over the road. The Government of India have handed a note of protest to the French Embassy in India.

FRENCH POSSESSIONS IN INDIA

*38. **Shri P. Kunhiraman**: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India and the French Government have come to any agreement in regard to the referendum being taken in respect of French Possessions in India;

(b) if so, whether observers have been appointed;

(c) whether the list of observers submitted by the French Government, if any, has been approved by the Government of India or whether the list has been in any way modified; and

(d) if modified, how; and if not, why not?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) In accordance with the declaration of June, 1948, by the French Government, which was made with the approval of the Government of India, the future of the French Establishments is to be decided by a free and fair referendum.

(b) to (d). The French Government have recently suggested the names of some persons to be appointed as neutral observers for the referendum and the Government of India have also suggested some names. The list has not yet been finalised.

EVACUEE PROPERTY (EXCHANGE)

*39. **Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of cases of exchange of properties between Pakistan and India up to date?

(b) What has led to the failure of that arrangement?

(c) What steps are Government now taking for the successful realisation of the property left behind by Indian nationals in Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The number of cases of exchange of properties between Pakistan and India upto 30th September, 1949, is 28, in the agreed areas specified in Part I of the January 1949 Agreement.

(b) From the experience of the working of the January, 1949, inter-Dominion Agreement the Government of India have felt that the various conditions precedent laid down for compliance before permission for sale or exchange of properties is given by the Custodians, have proved a definite bar to the speedy sale and exchange of properties. Apart from this various other difficulties have been put in the way of the working of the agreement by the Government of Pakistan and its Officers.

(c) In view of the experience gained by working the Karachi Agreement the Government of India are confirmed in their opinion that the only possible solution of the question lies in a settlement at governmental level, each Dominion assuming responsibility for the evacuee property within its territories, the valuation to be carried out by a joint Agency, and subsequent settlement between the two Dominions to be based on this valuation. I still hope that this procedure and solution will be acceptable to Pakistan.

AID TO TRUSTS FROM PAKISTAN

*40. **Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man**: Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether any land, building, property or financial aid has been given to any Trusts who have left behind their properties in Pakistan? If so, what are their names?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The institution for the Blind on Panchkuin Road was granted a non-recurring grant of Rs. 2,000 in July '49.

Sir Ganga Ram Trust Society is also being considered for the grant of land for starting a School and Hospital in the Northern Extension Area. Certain other applications are also under consideration.

EVACUEE PROPERTY

*41. **Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man**: Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state to what extent evacuee property has accrued to the Custodian-General of India after the promulgation of the recent Evacuee Property Ordinance?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Under the Evacuee Property Ordinance all property vests in the Custodians. The Custodian-General has only supervisory powers.

Detailed information regarding the evacuee property taken over by the Provincial Custodians is not available. A statement showing the property taken over upto 30th September, 1949, is being compiled. Thereafter a monthly report will be issued.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

*42. **Dr. V. Subramaniam**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the measures taken to introduce and encourage cottage industries in the country?

(b) Is it a fact that a non-official member of the Cottage Industries Board made an un-official Report on the Cottage Industries in Japan where he made more than twenty suggestions? If so, what are they?

(c) What was the action taken on the recommendations made, if any?

(d) What was the amount sanctioned to get the necessary machinery and what was the amount spent?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The encouragement and development of cottage industries is primarily the responsibility of Provincial and State Governments, the responsibility of the Government of India being confined to co-ordinating the measures taken by these Governments, in developing export markets, training technicians, and in making improved foreign technique and machinery suitable for cottage industries available to the Provinces and States. A note detailing the measures taken so far is placed on the table. (See Appendix III, annexure No. 4).

(b) and (c). A two-man delegation was sent to Japan by Government. The delegation have made certain recommendations in their report. A statement

summarising the recommendations and the action taken on them is placed on the table of the House. (See Appendix III, annexure No. 5).

(d) The amount sanctioned for the purchase of machinery from Japan is: (i) for the Ministry of Rehabilitation Rs. 72,000, (ii) for the Ministry of Industry and Supply Rs. 37,000. The amount actually spent will approximate to that figure.

COTTAGE INDUSTRY MUSEUM

*43. **Dr. V. Sukramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether there is any Museum of Cottage Industry articles at the Centre and in the provinces?

(b) What are the steps taken to manufacture in India the necessary machines for starting cottage industries and if none, why?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, several Provinces and States have Museums as well as Sales Centres. The Central Government have no Museum but a Central Emporium for Cottage Industry Products.

(b) A variety of machines and equipment for cottage industries is already being manufactured in the country. The Government of India have, however, purchased a number of small machines from Japan, and efforts will be made to have them duplicated by indigenous manufacture.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

*44. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Department of Scientific Research was first established;

(b) what steps have been taken for the co-ordination of all scientific research in India;

(c) the strength and personnel of the body in charge of the development of scientific research; and

(d) what has been the expenditure both recurring and non-recurring in respect of the Department of Scientific Research in 1947-48 and 1948-49?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Department was established on the 1st June, 1948.

(b) Research in India is mainly financed by Government. It is conducted in Government Research Institutes or in Research Institutes and University Laboratories receiving substantial grants-in-aid from Government. Research is conducted on medical, agricultural, veterinary, defence, transport, scientific and industrial problems under the aegis of the appropriate Ministry. Each Ministry has set up special committees to deal with special subjects. On these committees, there are both official and non-official scientists. The co-ordination of research conducted under the aegis of the various Ministries is arranged by the Department of Scientific Research through an Expert Advisory Committee called the Advisory Committee for Co-ordinating Scientific Work. This Committee works under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. On it are the representatives of the various Ministries. Experts are co-opted to work with this committee as and when required. All problems which require co-ordination and in which more than one Ministry is concerned or in which more than one branch of science is concerned, are referred to this Committee.

(c) The body in charge of development of Scientific and Industrial Research is the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. It is an autonomous body registered under the Registration of Societies Act XXI of 1860 and is administered by a Governing Body of which the Prime Minister is the President and

the Minister for Industry and Supply is the Vice-President. There are on this body representatives of the Ministry of Finance and non-officials representing Science and Industry and business. The Governing Body is advised in all technical matters by a Board of Scientific and Industrial Research which consists of 22 members of whom 10 are eminent scientists mainly non-officials. Four members represent some Government Departments interested in industrial research. The names of the personnel of the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research are given in a statement which is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix III, annexure No. 6).

(d) The expenditure for 1947-48 and 1948-49 has been as under:—

Year	Particulars	Recurring	Non-recurring
1947-48	The Department was created on the 1st June, 1948.		
1948-49	Staff.	Rs. 1,08,927	
	Research.	Rs. 10,78,922	Rs. 9,93,087
	Council of Scientific & Industrial Research.	Rs. 43,98,000	Rs. 18,94,000
	Total.	Rs. 55,85,849	Rs. 28,87,087

MOB ATTACK FROM EAST PAKISTAN

*46. **Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on or about the 25th October, 1949 a mob armed with deadly weapons attacked peaceful citizens of Patharkandi, a village on the Pakistan Border of the District of Cachar in the Province of Assam and that on intervention by the police there was a free fight between the police party and the mob as a result of which a police sub-Inspector and others were seriously injured?

(b) Is it a fact that the mob came from the neighbouring District of East Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): (a) The information of the Honourable Member is substantially correct.

(b) The attack was organised by local communists and their supporters and not by persons from Pakistan.

DEMOLITION OF GURDWARA IN PAKISTAN

*47. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Gurdwara Bawli Sahib, Lahore, a prominent historic Gurdwara of Sikhs, has been demolished or damaged in any way, in order to have an open ground before the Sunehri Masjid?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps do the Government of India propose to take in this matter in the light of the agreement reached between India and Pakistan regarding the religious places of Hindus and Sikhs left in Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) and (b). The Government of India have no information regarding the demolition of or damage to Gurdwara Bawli Sahib at Lahore. A report has been called for from the Deputy High Commissioner for India in Pakistan at Lahore and the necessary information will be laid on the table, on receipt of his reply.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

***48. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have decided to import any machinery from Japan for the development of cottage and small scale industries in India and if so, what will be the value of such machinery and which Province or Provinces have been selected for the establishment of such Industries;

(b) whether any Technicians are being imported from Japan to train up Indians in the use of these machines and if so, what their approximate number will be and on what terms they are being imported;

(c) whether Government propose to see that these Industries are not centralised in one particular Province, and are established in all the Provinces and particularly in those Provinces which are industrially backward;

(d) what the approximate outturn of such machinery is expected to be and what the nature of the articles manufactured therewith will be; and

(e) at which place a vocational training class, if any, is intended to be opened and whether trainees in Japanese crafts will be recruited from all the Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The Ministry of Industry and Supply are importing from Japan machinery worth about Rs. 37,000 which will be installed at the proposed Central Institute of Cottage Industries to be located at Harduaganj (11 miles from Aligarh).

(b) Seven Japanese technicians have been imported by the Ministry of Rehabilitation for periods ranging between three to six months—one of them on a monthly salary of \$420; two on \$225; one on \$200; and three on \$125; each of these technicians will be provided free board and lodging, free medical attendance, dental care and life insurance for an amount equivalent to \$3,000 for the period of stay in India. This Ministry also proposes to utilise their services.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A copy of the report of the Delegation that was recently sent to Japan, which contains the information, is placed on the Table of the House. (A Copy placed in the Library. (See No. P—1949).

(e) The proposed Central Institute of Cottage Industries to be located at Harduaganj will provide for the training of instructors and organisers and for specialised training of master-craftsmen. The Women's Wing of this Institute, which will be located at Delhi will provide training for women-instructors in crafts and cottage industries. The trainees will be invited from all Provinces.

EASTERN BOUNDARY DISPUTES

***49. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been arrived at between the Governments of India and Pakistan in respect of their disputes regarding the existing boundaries between the East and West Bengal on the one hand and East Bengal and

Assam on the other, arising out of the interpretation of the Radcliffe's Award; if so, on what lines;

(b) what the main points of difference existing between the two Governments are;

(c) whether both the Governments have agreed to the constitution of a Tribunal and on the personnel of such Tribunal;

(d) whether the Tribunal has been constituted and the case referred to the same for disposal; and

(e) if not, by which date the Tribunal is likely to be constituted and what time the Tribunal is expected to take in deciding the dispute?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): (a) and (b). Yes. At the inter-Dominion Conference held at New Delhi in December, 1948 it was agreed between the two Dominions that a Tribunal, consisting of one nominee each of the two Governments, as member and a chairman acceptable to both Dominions, should be set up for the adjudication and final settlement of the following boundary disputes arising out of the interpretation of the Radcliffe Award and for demarcating the boundary accordingly;

(A) East-West Bengal disputes concerning:

(i) the boundary between the district of Murshidabad (West Bengal) and the district of Rajshahi (East Bengal) including the thanas of Nawabganj and Shibganj of pre-partition Malda District, and

(ii) that portion of the common boundary between the two Dominions which lies between the point on the River Ganges where the channel of the river Mathabhanga takes off according to Sir Cyril Radcliffe's Award and the northernmost point where the channel meets the boundary between the thanas of Daulatpur and Krimpur according to that Award.

(B) East Bengal-Assam disputes concerning:

(i) the Patharia Hill Reserve forest, and (ii) the course of the Kusiara river.

(c), (d) and (e). Yes. The Tribunal with Lord Justice Algot Bagge, a judge of the Supreme Court of Sweden as Chairman and Shri Chandrasekhara Iyer and Mr. Justice Shahbuddin nominated as members by India and Pakistan respectively is expected to begin its work about the beginning of December, 1949. It is hoped that the Tribunal will finish its work in about two months.

MICA WELFARE FUND

***50. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Mica Welfare Fund in the various Mica producing Provinces of the Indian Union including the States and Unions of States;

(b) the purpose or purposes for which the said Fund is being utilised in various Provinces and the annual collection towards this Fund and the amount spent therefrom in each Province; and

(c) whether anything has been spent out of the Mica Welfare Fund for improving the conditions of labour, in relieving unemployment and making roads in Mica Producing areas in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara; if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The total amount of mica mines labour welfare cess collected from the various mica-producing areas of the Indian Union, including States, upto the 31st March, 1949, is Rs. 29,94,782.

(b) The Fund is utilised for providing to mine workers amenities like medical assistance, establishment of hospitals, schools, child welfare and maternity clinics, recreational facilities etc. Detailed reports showing activities financed from the Mica Mines Welfare Fund during the last 3 years have been published in the Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1948, 11th September, 1948, and the 12th November, 1949, copies of which are available in the library of the House. A statement showing receipts and expenditure pertaining to the Fund during the last 3 years is placed on the table. (See Appendix III, annexure No. 7).

(c) No amount could be spent out of the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund in Ajmer-Merwara in view of the fact that the share of the mica mines labour welfare fund collected from this area was small and welfare measures worth the name could hardly be undertaken unless some joint administrative machinery was set up along with other States. This is now being done.

SALT MANUFACTURE

*51. **Shri Yudhisthir Mishra:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware of any public demand or have received any representation from Orissa for the manufacture of salt on co-operative basis and if so, whether Government have taken steps in pursuance of the demand?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes. Two factories in Orissa have started production of salt on co-operative basis and the application of a third factory is under consideration of the Government. Two other applications for manufacture on a co-operative basis were rejected—one on the request of the Government of Orissa. The policy of Government is to give preference to co-operative societies over others in the allotment of salt lands and in the issue of licences.

COPRA FROM CEYLON

*52. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state

(a) whether Coconut (Copra) and Coconut products are now imported into India from Ceylon;

(b) whether Government consulted the representatives of coconut producers in India before permitting the import from Ceylon; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the import of coconut from Ceylon is causing competition in the Indian market, to the disadvantage of the coconut-grower in India?

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

(b) No. The necessity for doing so does not arise as the total production in India is not sufficient for meeting the demand and imports have therefore to be allowed. I may add for the information of the Honourable Member that imports are allowed not only from Ceylon but also from other soft currency countries, like Malaya and the Seychelles Islands.

(c) The question of unhealthy competition does not arise as the total quantity of copra imported in the past or likely to be imported in the future forms but a very small proportion of the total production in the country.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

INDIA'S TRADE BALANCE

1. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the trade balance between India and various foreign countries estimated as at the end of October, 1949?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I place on the table of the House a statement showing the balance of trade for the period April to August, 1949. Figures for the later period are not yet available. (See Appendix III, annexure No. 8).

RAILWAYS COLLIERY CONTRACTORS' BILLS

2. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the bills of the Railways Colliery Contractors, Suppliers and others pending on the 30th June, 1949 for payment in the Office of the Chief Mining Engineer, Calcutta for more than six months from the date of their presentation, showing the following particulars: (i) the date of presentation, (ii) the amount involved, (iii) the contents of the bills in brief and (iv) the causes of delay?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No bills of railway colliery contractors and suppliers were pending for payment in the office of the Chief Mining Engineer, Calcutta for more than six months on the 30th June, 1949.

Bills amounting to Rs. 4,573-13-0 on account of payment of law charges to Shri R. L. Malviya for conducting a suit on behalf of the employees of the Government Railway collieries, Kurasia, were pending in the Chief Mining Engineer's office at Calcutta for more than 6 months. Government sanction for payment of this amount was applied for by the Coal Commissioner in September and was issued in October, 1949. But a sum of Rs. 2,000 had already been paid to Shri Malviya by the Controller of Coal Accounts pending Government sanction. The outstanding bills have since been passed for payment by the Chief Mining Engineer.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to certain questions during the years 1947 and 1948 in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative)—Laid on the Table of the House on the 28th November, 1949.

(See Appendix I)

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Tuesday, 29th November, 1949

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

INCOME-TAX INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

*53. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state as to what stage the Income-tax Investigation Commission has reached in its deliberations?

(b) How many cases have been disposed of and how many are still pending?

(c) What is the total amount likely to be recovered from the disposed of cases?

(d) If no amount has so far been recovered, what are the reasons thereof?

(e) Has any amicable settlement been arrived at between the Commission and the parties concerned? If so, what is the number of such cases and what are the amounts involved?

(f) When is the Commission likely to complete its work?

(g) Has the Taxation on Income (Investigation Commission) Act been applied to the Indian States?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Commission completed the first part of its task by submitting their Report relating to the adequacy or otherwise of the existing law to prevent evasion of tax, copies of which were made available to Honourable Members during the last session. Fair progress has been made by the Commission in relation to the second part of its task involving (i) collection of information relating to deposits and movements of substantial sums of money, and (ii) investigation of individual cases. As regards item (i) a vast mass of material has already been collected and the results are ready for application to individual cases. As regards item (ii), the Commission's investigation has reached different stages in different cases. Some have been completed and others are nearing completion. But in the majority of cases investigations are still proceeding.

(b) 93 cases have been disposed of and 1,276 cases are still pending.

(c) It is not possible to give any precise estimate at this stage of the amount likely to be recovered from such cases because it has yet to be worked out by Income Tax Officers on the combined result of the figures of evaded income reported by the Commission and the figures adopted in the previous assessments. The amount of evaded income according to the reports made by the Commission so far is roughly Rs. 260 lakhs.

(d) So far Rs. 3,03,333 has been recovered and further recovery proceedings are in progress.

(e) 65 cases have been amicably settled so far, and the amount of evasion in terms of income involved in them was Rs. 1,38,67,386.

(f) The progress of the Commission's work depends on so many factors that it is not possible to make a definite statement.

(g) The Act has been applied only to the merged States, but the Commission's power of obtaining information relating to the referred cases has been extended in a modified form to other States also by appropriate legislation passed by the respective States.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I understood the Honourable Minister to say that 260 lakhs have been assessed and that out of that sum 3 lakhs have been recovered?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes..

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the balance of these 260 lakhs actually assessed will be promptly recovered or whether there is any difficulty in effecting the recovery, in view of the fact that only three lakhs have been recovered?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The best way in which I can answer this question is to give the Honourable Member some idea of the practical problems involved in this matter. What the Commission is expected to do is to report on the actual amount of income evaded in the cases investigated. It is really for the Income-tax Department to determine the amount of tax payable on the evaded income. Now, what exactly is the rate to be applied to the evaded income will depend necessarily on this income which has been reported on by the Commission plus the income already assessed, because the rate applicable will depend upon the total income. Therefore the recovery is necessarily a slow process.

Apart from that, there is also this question that in the case of many of these assesses on whose cases reports have been made, their capacity to pay has been greatly reduced since the war years. Therefore it is necessary for the Income-tax Department to give facilities for payment in instalments and recoveries are bound to be slow.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether these sums were arrived at by amicable settlement or were the actual figures given by the Commission?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I said in my answer that about 65 cases out of 93 were settled amicably.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the names of the firms which evaded the tax and whether substantial rates were charged on them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to answer that question.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know what steps the Government propose to take to recover the sums due?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Every possible step is being taken consistently with the circumstances I have just mentioned.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I have an idea of the time it will take to decide these cases?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to give any idea, because the Commission is a Judicial body. It will take its own time.

Shri C. Subramaniam: May I have the names of the persons whose cases have been disposed of and also the extent of the sums involved?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Were they big industrialists or middle class industrialists?

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is there any proposal to curtail the activities of the Investigating Commission?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

An Honourable Member: May I know whether these 260 lakhs are the agreed amounts and, if so, what is the amount that the Commission determined?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: 260 lakhs is the total amount for 93 cases. Out of these 65 cases were agreed to.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What is the total amount involved in the remaining 28 cases?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have not got the information ready. I could get it.

Shri B. Das: May I enquire whether representatives of capitalists and black-marketeers approached the Finance Minister and other high officials for a settlement over unpaid income-tax and wanted a certain settlement by paying up on a percentage basis the amounts agreed upon?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Nobody has approached me, Sir.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How much expenditure has been incurred by this Commission?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I could give the information to the Honourable Member, but I have not got it ready here.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Government of India at present have any control over similar Commissions appointed in acceded States?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware of any Commissions appointed in other States.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister aware if the Commission came across any honest evaders?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact I do not have any private conversations with the Commission which is doing its work independently as a judicial body.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Government are aware that a similar Commission was appointed in the United State of Travancore and Cochin?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have no information.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Sometime ago a policy was announced in the House by the Honourable the Finance Minister that the Government of India will do something by which this sort of Commission business will not be required to be brought into action very much and that the capitalists will be given an opportunity to declare their hidden money if any. What steps have the Government taken in that matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The schemes contemplated in the proposal are under active consideration.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I have some idea of the schemes?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to give any idea at present, because of the stage at which we have arrived in the matter of these proposals. What Government intend to do is to place certain alternative schemes they have in mind before the *ad hoc* Devaluation Committee recently appointed.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Is it a fact that the Government have been considering this sort of proposal for more than six months and no decisions have been arrived at?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I made this announcement on behalf of Government I believe on 5th October.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know the date when the policy is likely to be announced?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As soon as the consideration is completed.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Much harm has been done by the dilatory policy of the Government.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware of it.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Whether it is a fact that the firms so assessed have ceased to exist under the old names and have started business under new names?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Probably the Commission is aware of that.

RETRENCHMENT

*54. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the extent of reduction in expenditure in the Central Government during the period from January to October, 1949?

(b) What will be the effect of this retrenchment on the finances of India?

(c) Has any retrenchment in personnel also been effected and if so, what are the details?

(d) Have Provincial Governments also been asked to retrench the allotment of loan for the construction of houses?

(e) What is the latest proposal of Government in regard to giving of loans to Provinces for the construction of houses for refugees?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The required information cannot be ascertained easily without detailed enquiry from all disbursing officers spread over the whole country. Monthly Accounts of expenditure do not represent all the liabilities incurred during the month and a comparison of same would not lead to any definite conclusion. In any case, the accounts for October 1949, are not yet available.

(b) It is not possible to estimate at present.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) A loan of Rs. 2 crores for the Bombay Government provided in the Budget for 1949-50 for Industrial Housing, is not proposed to be given now. The Central Government have no information whether this will lead to any reduction by the Provincial Government in the allotment of loan for construction of houses.

(e) The Ministry of Rehabilitation have set up a Special Committee to advise *inter alia* on the manner and extent of grant of loans to Provinces for the construction of houses for refugees.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister in reply to my question has stated that the detailed enquiry throughout the country will take some time, but my question relates to the Central Government. My question is how much reduction has been caused in the expenditure of the Central Government from January to October. Will the Honourable Minister kindly give us the approximate figure, if not the actual?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think I told the House in the course of my speech on devaluation what exactly is the total amount that we expected to save in revenue and capital expenditure. The Government of India have introduced schemes for the purpose of implementing their policy. As far as I am in a position today to give any figures, forty crores for 1949-50 and eighty crores for the year 1950-51 are the amounts which we expect to save.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know how much actual retrenchment has been caused by the report of the Economy Committee that was appointed, apart from the other proposals?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The actual amount of saving made during the current year is not possible to arrive at because the monthly accounts of expenditure, as I mentioned in my answer, do not cover all the liabilities incurred. Therefore I am not at present in a position to give the exact figure to the House.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the recommendation of that Committee? What is the total amount that that Committee recommended for retrenchment?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The proposals of that Committee in the first year would have meant a saving of approximately 3½ crores.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether that Committee's report will be made available to the Members?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should be glad to place copies of the report at the disposal of the House.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: May I know what loans have been granted to the West Bengal and Assam Governments for the construction of houses for refugees?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As regards the loans for the construction of houses for refugees, that is a matter which is the concern of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know what policy the Government of India is following in regard to retrenchment? Is it a question of merely last come first out, or is there any other consideration?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, as far as saving is concerned, the Government's policy at present is to effect as much saving as possible without causing retrenchment on any large scale, because retrenchment on a large scale is likely to create social and political problems of a difficult character, but it all depends upon the financial position of the Government whether it is necessary to go to the extent of effecting any large scale retrenchment.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Do these amounts of forty crores and eighty crores which are expected to be saved comprise capital expenditure or revenue expenditure?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It comprises both.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if any reduction in the services also is contemplated with regard to that expenditure which is curtailed on account of capital expenditure?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Necessarily a saving in capital expenditure will also mean a saving in revenue expenditure.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know how many offices have been created and also the approximate expenditure involved in connection therewith, ever since the retrenchment drive has been undertaken?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware of any office created but I would be very glad to provide the Honourable Member with the information required.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Has the attention of the Honourable Minister been drawn to an article published in The Economist of London on the top-heaviness of the administration of the Central Government and suggesting a reduction?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have seen a report in the press of the article which has appeared in The London Economist. I would like to say that as regards the articles relating to India which appear in this journal, I am not in a position to judge the validity of their conclusions because they are not in the habit of giving the evidence on which their conclusions are based. These are somewhat esoteric articles written with a certain squint in their eye.

Shri H. V. Kamath: As a result of the retrenchment in the various Ministries of the Government of India, how many men have been thrown out of employment during the last ten months?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have not got the information ready here.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: I hope that whatever men are retrenched, the government intends to switch them over to other production schemes, etc.?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This general principle is acceptable to government.

INDIAN DEFENCE MISSION'S TOUR

***55. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Indian Defence Mission's tour to U.S.A. has been completed?

(b) If so, what are the results of this mission?

(c) What was the object of the mission and have any orders been placed by the mission for arms and ammunition?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The Mission returned to India on 22nd May, 1949.

(b) and (c). The object of the Mission was to study generally the Defence Organisations of the countries visited by it, namely, U.K., U.S.A., Canada and Switzerland.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the authorities in America have stated that they would not be in a position to supply any military equipment to the Indian Army in the near future because they require that equipment for the European countries? Is that correct?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is not entirely correct.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, what is the correct position?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The correct position is that some materials are available, and other materials which are not available cannot be made available in the near future. Naturally they have to meet their own requirements first. When there is a surplus, we hope to get it.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know when it will be forthcoming?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am not in a position to give that information.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the Defence Secretary made a statement in Ottawa that he was profoundly impressed by the Canadian defence system of light defence, and that if it could be adopted here, seven lakhs of men could be retrenched in the Indian Army. I want to know what kind of equipment Government have ordered by which seven lakhs of men could be retrenched?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The statement to which reference has been made and which is supposed to have been made by the Defence Secretary has been contradicted.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Are heads of Departments authorised to make statements on Government policy?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister said that the statement referred to has been contradicted. May I know by whom?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The statement is attributed to the Defence Secretary and naturally it was contradicted by him.

DELEGATION TO SECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

***56. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the names of the members of the delegation who attended the Second World Health Assembly of the World Health Organisation held in Rome on 13th June, 1949?

(b) What were the important resolutions passed in this Conference and to what extent will these be implemented as far as India is concerned?

(c) How many sittings of this Conference were held?

(d) What was the expenditure incurred by the Government of India in sending this Delegation?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) to (d). A statement giving the information required is placed on the table of the House (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 1).

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether any of the meetings of this Conference had to be adjourned for want of a quorum?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether the Honourable Minister's attention has been drawn to a statement issued by the Minister of Health and Local Administration in the Government of Ceylon to the effect that some of the meetings were deprived of the quorum, owing to the absence of certain members who seemed to be more interested in sight-seeing than in attending the session?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I may say, speaking on behalf of the Indian delegation that we were never absent from any of the meetings.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I want to know who were the members of the delegations who attended these meetings?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That is not information that I can furnish to the Honourable Member.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is going into unnecessary details. He is proceeding with a cross-examination and not asking for any information.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is India's annual contribution to the W.H.O.?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: India pays to the W.H.O. according to the schedule which is laid down by the United Nations for and on behalf of all the countries. As to how much we pay to W.H.O., India has been paying about six lakhs a year.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is India's representation on the W.H.O. or its executive commensurate with the contribution that she pays to the organisation?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The benefits that India derives from W.H.O. are very much more than what she pays.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I ask the Honourable Minister to give the information in reply to part (b) as it involves one figure?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Rs. 12,000.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: May I know what are the benefits that India has derived by attending the W.H.O.?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I think it will be best for me perhaps to circulate a small note as to what the W.H.O. does for India, but at the moment we have four teams working in India, one team for V. D., one maternity child welfare team etc. and in addition we are getting 15 scholarships for our people to go abroad for further studies.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In the delegation referred to in part (a) of the question, was any member of the House included apart from the Honourable Minister herself?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I may say for the information of the House that delegates to this Conference could only be members of the medical profession or those connected with medical administration in any country.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether it is a fact that recently the W.H.O. has contributed to the Tuberculosis Fund which has been started in India? If so, what is the amount?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It is wrong to say that the W.H.O. has contributed a certain amount. It is the United Nations International Children's Emergency fund that has contributed this year \$75,000 of which a sum is being spent on Tuberculosis, and I hope to get more for Tuberculosis next year from them.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that the cost was Rs. 12,000. May I know whether that represents the total cost or was some other amount contributed by the W.H.O.?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Rs. 12,000 refers to the expenditure on the Delegation which is the question that I was asked. Now the contribution of India to the Organization comes under another category and I have already replied to that question.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: May I ask the Honourable Minister where these units are situated in the country, in which part of the country?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Of the Malaria units one is in Madras, one in Mysore, one in Orissa and one in the Nepal Terai area in the U.P.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I ask whether the teams just mentioned by the Honourable Minister are working free of payment?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The cost of the teams work out at approximately 50:50, i.e., 50 per cent. to be given by the W.H.O. and 50 per cent. expenditure undertaken by the Government of India.

PRE-FABRICATED HOUSES

***57. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state when pre-fabricated houses will be manufactured by the factory installed in India?

(b) Is it a fact that their manufacture has been delayed and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

(c) What will be the total output of houses per day and how are these likely to be disposed of?

(d) Have Government any definite programme and plan for the utilisation of these houses when manufactured?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) It is hoped that the factory will be able to start production early in 1950.

(b) Yes. The delay in the manufacture of houses has been due to the following reasons:

(i) The dock strike in England and congestion in the Bombay Harbour delayed the arrival of machinery in Delhi; (ii) Difficulties in the supplies of essential raw materials have delayed the execution of orders placed with the Indian machinery manufacturers; and (iii) The technical personnel required have not been readily available.

(c) and (d). Sixteen houses per day when the factory is in full production. A statement showing the procedure for allotment of the houses when manufactured is placed on the table of the House. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 2).

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that when the machinery arrived in Bombay Harbour there was delay due to congestion. May I know on what day they arrived and when they were delivered here in Delhi.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I cannot give the actual date of the arrival, but I believe they arrived sometime towards the end of June and when I arrived back from Europe at the end of July, they were still there and delivery had not been possible. They came here early in August.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that there is no congestion in the Bombay docks since the end of July?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, but my dates were that they arrived somewhere in June and they were released towards the end of July and arrived in Delhi in August.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the retrenchment drive, Sir, calculated to have any healthy repercussions on the programme for pre-fabricated Houses? What is the original capital cost and what is the present cost likely to be when it is completed?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: These questions have been answered very many times before in this House. The capital expenditure on this factory was in the neighbourhood of 60 to 70 lakhs and the current Budget expenditure is in the neighbourhood of 50 lakhs and next year it will be very much less.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact, Sir, that the pre-fabricated houses scheme was submitted by the present Managing Director of the Housing Factory to the Mysore Government some years ago and the Mysore Government discarded it?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That is not the case.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Have any tests been made to ascertain whether these pre-fabricated Houses are suitable for the extremes of climate in India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Due precautions were taken and it is the opinion of the Government that these houses will be absolutely all right for the Indian climate.

Shri H. V. Kamath: On the Board of Directors of the Housing factory, is it a fact that apart from the Managing Director, there is no expert engineer?

M. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member is introducing so many inferences in this matter.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know how the Honourable Minister has managed to keep the scheme from the retrenching eye of the Finance Minister?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have any experts been recently brought to India from England to expedite the work of the factory?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir, except the technical personnel that have come according to the agreement signed with the factory.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Has any royalty to be paid to the contractors and if so, what is the amount of royalty?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There is no royalty paid to the contractors.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether she knows that the lime-gummi houses constructed at Erinpura and other places are cheaper than the pre-fabricated houses?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that there was no royalty but on an examination of the agreement here I find that the licensee gets a royalty varying from Rs. 5 per square to Rs. 4 per square. May I know whether that is correct or what she stated is correct? She said that there is no royalty, but the agreement says a royalty has to be paid.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: What is it that the Honourable Member is reading from?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I am reading from the agreement executed by the Contractors and this is an agreement entered into between the manufacturers and the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker: He will get the information later.

NAVAL SHIPS

*58. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of naval ships purchased by the Government of India during the year 1949? How many ships have actually arrived and how many are yet to arrive in India?

(b) How many of these are destroyers, how many cruisers and how many belong to other categories?

(c) What is the total number of such naval ships purchased after the Independence from foreign countries and what is their total value?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). Three Destroyers. They are expected in India within the next month or two.

(c) The total number of ships acquired after Independence is seven. Their total value is about Rs. 243 lakhs.

PRIVILEGE TICKET ORDERS

59. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the circumstances under which privilege ticket orders (P.T.O.) are issued to the employees of the Government of India?

(b) What is the total amount spent by Government during the period from 1st April, 1948 to 31st March, 1949 on this item?

(c) What was the number of employees and their relatives who availed of this privilege?

+ Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The P.T.O. concession was introduced on the recommendation of the Central Pay Commission to enable the civil Central Government servants to travel once a year for rest and recreation. The concession has since been suspended for one year with effect from the 5th October, 1949.

(b) and (c). The information is not readily available.

Sardar Hukam Singh: How much money has been saved on account of the suspension of the P.T.O. concession?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The information is not available.

GOLD SMUGGLING

*60. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state as to how many cases of smuggling of gold into India have been detected from 15th August, 1947 to date?

(b) What is the total amount of gold recovered from smugglers?

(c) How many Indians and non-Indians have been convicted for gold smuggling?

(d) Which are the main ports of India, where gold smuggling is carried on?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) 751 cases of smuggling of gold into India were detected from the 15th August, 1947 to the 30th September, 1949.

(b) The total quantity of gold recovered during the period was 79,030 tolas.

(c) Indians—402; Non-Indians—231.

(d) The main ports through which gold smuggling is carried on are Bombay and Calcutta.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What are the factors which inspire these gentlemen to carry on smuggling activities?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister does not know the mind of the gentlemen concerned. The Honourable Member can ask for information if any.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the amount of gold recovered?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister said that it was 70,000 tolas.

MAJOR GENERAL EL EDROOS

*61. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether Major General El Edroos is still in Hyderabad?

(b) If so, is he still holding the same post in the Hyderabad Army which he held before?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) No. He has retired from the Hyderabad Army with effect from 1st October, 1949.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Was there any service term between the Nizam Government and Maj.-Gen. El Edroos?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: He was in the regular service of the Hyderabad Government.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether he has left any property in Hyderabad?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Not that I know of. He has no immovable property.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many officers and men who served in the Hyderabad army before our police action still continue to serve in that State's armed forces?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That question does not arise out of this.

ORIGINAL WRITINGS OF MAHATMA GANDHI

***62. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the original writings of Mahatma Gandhi have been placed in the National Archives of India?

(b) Is it the policy of Government to preserve the original writings of great Indian writers in the National Archives of India?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The primary object of the National Archives is the preservation, publication and study of records of the Government of India.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether any arrangement has been made for the exhibition of the original writings of Mahatma Gandhi?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Yes, Sir. For some time past the Government has been considering the collection of his writings for the National Archives of India but the Memorial Trust which was consulted in the matter have decided to establish a national museum where they are going to collect all the writings and other materials relating to Mahatma Gandhi.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Do Government propose to make some provision for the collection and preservation of the writings of other great authors of this country?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: No. At present accommodation is not available in the National Archives.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Do Government propose to make some contribution to the Memorial Trust for it?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I do not think it stands in need of any.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is there not any building available which may be added to the National Archives, where papers and documents may be lodged?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

HOMOEOPATHIC ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

***63. Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state when the report submitted by the Homoeopathic Enquiry Committee is going to be published?

(b) What are the main recommendations of the Committee?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to implement their recommendations?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The report of the Homoeopathic Enquiry Committee was published on the 17th October, 1949.

(b) The main points in the report are summarised at pages 64 to 73 of the Report copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(c) The Report is under consideration and a decision regarding the action to be taken will be reached as soon as possible.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the report been brought up before the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Health?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Not yet.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Why not?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: How long will it take Government to form their opinion?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government will try to be as expeditious as possible in this regard.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the meaning of "as expeditious as possible" in the Government dictionary?

An Honourable Member: Ten years!

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: What is the agency which considers this report in the Ministry of Health? Are there any experts in Homoeopathy in the Health Ministry to consider the report?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The committee that was appointed had homoeopaths serving on it and as such the report naturally contains the opinion of homoeopaths. The Government consider the report at the Centre and it is circulated to all provinces for their consideration. As soon as their replies are received further consideration is given and the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Health is also then consulted.

I.A.S. AND I.P.S.

***64. Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of (i) candidates who have appeared for the I.A.S. and I.P.S. examinations since 1947; and (ii) successful candidates?

(b) What is the number absorbed in the administration (i) from successful candidates; and (ii) by nomination?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is laid on the table of the House (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 3).

NATIONAL CADET CORPS

***65. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the present strength of the senior and junior divisions of the National Cadet Corps, in each of the provinces;

(b) whether the Corps has been organized in any of the States; if not, why not; and

(c) whether the Girls' Division of the National Cadet Corps will be organized shortly, and if so, when?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 4.)

(b) The N.C.C. has been organized in all States except the Patiala and East Punjab States Union, Hyderabad and Kashmir. The P.E.P.S.U. Government will be raising their units in 1950.

(c) Three units of the Girls' Division have been raised this year in Calcutta, Nagpur and Ludhiana as an experimental measure in the first instance.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What has been the response to the organisation of the Girls' Division? How many girls have joined?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The total number that was required to constitute these units has been forthcoming and there has been no difficulty.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many women were trained at headquarters for this corps?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: None were trained at the headquarters except the instructors. It is not possible for me to give the number of officers who were trained at the headquarters but if the honourable member wishes to know I shall get the information.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether the girls that are enrolled to the N.C.C. units are only from the high schools or colleges or is the help of other women's organisations sought in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It depends on the division. If they are required in the junior division they are enrolled from schools and if for the senior division they are enrolled from the colleges.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What is the scope of the word "girl" here? What is the age span included there? Does it include spinsters also?

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Do the Government consider the political inclination or affiliation of the recruits before taking them on the N.C.C.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I do not know what the honourable member means by political inclinations but certainly some kind of scrutiny is made. But as far as the National Cadet Corps is concerned we are not very particular, because it is not a regular enrolment in the armed forces.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Why has the N.C.C. so far not been organised in the P.E.P.S.U.?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There are so many difficulties. First of all we have got to train the instructors. Unless the instructors are available the scheme cannot be started.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the kind of training imparted to girls different from that imparted to boys?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, certainly.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members will not begin to ask questions unless they are called upon; otherwise it creates a great deal of difficulty.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Is it the intention of the Government to confine the enrolment only to high schools and colleges? Will the Honourable Minister consider the desirability of consulting the All-India Women's Conference so as to give an impetus to the enrolment?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The Honourable member's question is not quite clear. When this Bill was introduced in this House I made it quite clear that in the beginning we have to confine the enrolment to schools and colleges. When the experiment has succeeded we can then think of expanding the scope.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Do the Government propose to help the P.E.P.S.U. to organise the N.C.C.?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have stated in reply to part (b) of the question that the P.E.P.S.U. Government is organising one unit in 1950.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Will Government consider the desirability of recruiting girls from institutions other than recognised schools who are conducting educational institutions?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It all depends on where the unit has been started. All the local colleges or schools can certainly take part in it.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is there any possibility of the rural boys also participating in the scheme?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, if the rural boys are studying in those schools.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: May I know why Girls' Divisions have not been organised in South India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There is no restriction in starting Girls' Divisions anywhere. The difficulty is about instructors. When instructors are available and the experiment of raising the Girls' Division is successful in these three places we will start it in South India and at other places also.

WORLD BANK LOAN

***66. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loans have been granted by the World Bank to India recently;

(b) if so, the amount of each loan, and the terms on which each has been advanced; and

(c) the purposes for which the loans will be utilized by Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) to (c). As the Honourable Member is aware, I am bringing a motion for consideration, dealing with our loan transactions with the International Bank before the House and in the course of discussion of that motion, I shall deal with the points raised in this question.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the rate of interest?

Mr. Speaker: That will be left to the motion.

COMMON COMMONWEALTH COMMERCIAL POLICY

***67. Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state if there has recently been any exchange of notes between the Governments of India and Pakistan on devaluation of the rupee?

(b) Has any decision been reached on the subject?

(c) Have the Government of India been approached by other commonwealth countries with a view to formulate a common commercial policy to face problems arising out of devaluation?

(d) If so, will any steps be taken accordingly?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Some communications have been exchanged and informal talks have taken place on the subject of holding an Inter-Dominion Conference to consider the issues arising out of Pakistan's decision. The matter is still under correspondence.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SALE OF GOLD

***68. Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether there has been any depreciation in bullion prices on account of the recent open market operations by the Reserve Bank of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Bullion prices have fallen by about Rs. 25 per 100 tolas in the case of silver and about Rs. 4 per tola in the case of gold.

ELECTORAL ROLLS IN HYDERABAD

*69. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electoral rolls for the election to the Constituent Assembly are ready in Hyderabad;

(b) whether it is a fact that conditions have returned to normal in the State; and

(c) if so, what steps are Government taking to hold elections to the Constituent Assembly of Hyderabad?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The electoral rolls are almost complete.

(b) Yes.

(c) All necessary steps are being taken to hold the elections to the Constituent Assembly of Hyderabad by March 1950.

NEPOTISM IN STATES

*70. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many public appointments made in the integrated States and the Unions of such States are not based on any competitive examination or suitable selection according to established practices; and

(b) the steps the States Ministry propose to take to safeguard appointment of efficient officers by established practices?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) I am not clear whether the Honourable Member is referring to established practice in the Provinces or in the States. As far as I am aware, the appointments have been made in accord with the established practice in the States. The Honourable Member is doubtless aware that in a large majority of the States, the system of recruitment by competitive examination did not exist.

(b) The Governments of these Unions have agreed to take part in the scheme for the extension of the Indian Administrative Service and to this extent, in due course, a certain number of posts in each Union will be filled by recruits to the Indian Administrative Service. For the rest a Public Services Commission has been established in all the Unions, except Vindhya Pradesh. These Commissions have been entrusted with the necessary powers under properly framed rules and the Government of India have taken adequate steps to see that the Commissions' work is effective. The appointment of the Chairman and Members of the Public Service Commission in each Union will be made by or with the approval of the Government of India. Pending a decision on the future of Vindhya Pradesh, a Public Service Commission has not yet been formed in that Union.

ELECTORAL ROLLS IN STATES

*71. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government of India to get electoral rolls prepared in the various States and States Unions and the time by which elections are expected to take place there?

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

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Apparently the Honourable Member is referring to elections under the new Constitution. It is understood that instructions in regard to the preparation of electoral rolls have been issued by the Secretariat of the Constituent Assembly and that progress is satisfactory.

ECONOMY IN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

*72. **Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether any measures of economy have been introduced in the Ministry of Defence?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the particular items affected and what are the respective amounts saved?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes:

(b) The Ministry of Defence is subject to the same cuts and economies as are enforced in the case of all other Ministries of the Central Government, namely 5 per cent. on pay and allowances and 10 per cent. on Travelling Allowances and Contingencies. Every effort will be made to secure further economies if they are found to be possible.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister in a position to assure the House that any economies effected with regard to the Army will not lead to a deterioration in the efficiency or morale of the Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, Sir. That is the first consideration.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Is it not a fact that the question of economy in this Department is under the consideration of the Standing Committee of the Legislature for Defence?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am not aware of any such proposal. But the economies have already been effected, and as I have stated, the general economy rule of 5 per cent. and 10 per cent. applies to this Ministry also.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How much does it come to? What is the estimate of the approximate economy?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got the approximate figures here. And it will be difficult for me to give the figures straightaway. It will be possible after a month or two when we have the actual figures.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Has there been any reduction in the staff?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Economy includes to some extent reduction in staff also.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know which of the three units of the Defence Forces—the Army, the Navy and the Air Force—has suffered or has been affected most by this financial cut?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If the Honourable Member will refer to the question it only asks for information about the economy effected in the Defence Ministry and not in the three units of the Defence Forces.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: May I ask what attempts have been made to bring about any economy in the Supply Stores which consume a considerable portion of Defence expenditure?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There are no Supply Stores as far as the Ministry of Defence is concerned. This question should be addressed to the proper Ministry.

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The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got the approximate figures here. And it will be difficult for me to give the figures straightaway. It will be possible after a month or two when we have the actual figures.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Has there been any reduction in the staff?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Economy includes to some extent reduction in staff also.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know which of the three units of the Defence Forces—the Army, the Navy and the Air Force—has suffered or has been affected most by this financial cut?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If the Honourable Member will refer to the question it only asks for information about the economy effected in the Defence Ministry and not in the three units of the Defence Forces.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: May I ask what attempts have been made to bring about any economy in the Supply Stores which consume a considerable portion of Defence expenditure?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There are no Supply Stores as far as the Ministry of Defence is concerned. This question should be addressed to the proper Ministry.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Is it a fact that because of the false economy in the matter of officers' salaries which is practised, the number of offences such as misappropriation of money is on the increase among officers of the Indian Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: This question does not cover the salaries of the officers—it refers to the Defence Ministry only.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is there any proposal to retrench temporary commissioned officers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am not aware of any proposal for the retrenchment of officers holding temporary commissions. But such officers as are surplus to our requirements are naturally retrenched.

BANK FAILURES

***73. Shri Arun Chandra Guha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of scheduled banks that have suspended their activities in West Bengal?

(b) How many of these have gone into liquidation and how many are under moratorium?

(c) What is the amount of the deposits involved in those banks and what is the number of depositors?

(d) What were the assets of those banks when they had stopped payments?

(e) Have Government enquired into the cause of these bank failures?

(f) Has any Managing Director, or Manager or the principal officer of these banks been prosecuted?

(g) Has any enquiry into the private assets of these men been made?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Five Scheduled Banks have suspended payment in West Bengal since September, 1948.

(b) According to the information available, the Calcutta High Court has directed the winding up of one bank and has passed orders directing the appointment of liquidators in respect of three other banks without prejudice to the question of sanctioning their schemes of arrangement with the creditors and shareholders. One bank is at present working under moratorium pending sanction of a scheme of arrangement.

(c) Information regarding the number of depositors is not available but the total amount of deposits in India involved in these banks is about Rs. 538.15 lakhs.

(d) The total book value of the assets of the five banks in India was about Rs. 672.66 lakhs, but the realisable value of these assets is probably much less.

(e) The main causes for the failure of these banks were lack of experience and trained staff, over-extended loan portfolios, policy of reckless branch expansion, declaration of high rates of dividend despite poor reserves and large capitalised expenses, speculative transactions in Government securities, and unsound policy followed in granting loans and advances.

(f) According to a press report the Managing Director, Cashier and General Manager of one Bank, along with five others, are being prosecuted by the Calcutta police for committing acts of misappropriation of the bank's funds to the extent of Rs. 131.22 lakhs. Government have no information in respect of the other four banks.

(g) Government have no information.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: The Honourable Minister has stated that the proposal for the reorganisation of one bank is now under consideration. Will the Government see that this bank, if revived, is not placed under the same old management?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Which bank is the Honourable Member referring to?

Mr. Speaker: The one under moratorium.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as that is concerned, they proposed a scheme of arrangement which has been rejected by the Reserve Bank.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What about the other banks now under moratorium?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is only one bank now under moratorium. As I stated in my answer, one bank has been directed to be wound up. There are three banks in respect of which liquidators have been appointed.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What is the arrangement with regard to the banks which have not yet been ordered to be wound up?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As regards the three banks, schemes of arrangement with the creditors and shareholders have been approved by the Reserve Bank of India, but orders of the High Court are being awaited.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Even in those cases, if those banks are revived, will Government see that the same old management is not put in charge?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question is hypothetical.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it a fact that the non-payment of pre-partition dues by the Government of India to these banks has resulted in many cases to their failure?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware of it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps were taken by the Reserve Bank of India in order to see that these banks would not fail in the manner in which they have failed—considering the fact that the Reserve Bank of India must have known the defects to which the Honourable Minister had alluded.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact, the position with regard to these banks is this. All these irregularities occurred before we passed the Banking Companies Act here. The Banking Companies Act now confers upon the Reserve Bank, in my opinion, effective powers in order to prevent happenings of this kind in future.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Whose is the responsibility to see whether the others also could not be prosecuted and brought to book in the same way as the Managers and other people of the one bank had been prosecuted?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a matter that rests entirely with the West Bengal Government and the Calcutta High Court.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will the Government press upon the West Bengal Government the urgency of the case so that they may take up enquiry into all these cases?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is making a suggestion for action. He might ask for information.

Shri E. K. Sidhya: May I ask whether the Reserve Bank had made any inspection of this bank and if so with what result? Did they make any note during their inspection as required under the Reserve Bank Act?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: These banks suspended payments before the Banking Companies Act came into operation. Since then the Reserve Bank has conducted a thorough inspection of all these banks and the causes that I mentioned in my reply for the failure of these banks are a summary of the report submitted by the Reserve Bank inspector.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether prior to the failure of these banks the inspector has carried out inspection?

Mr. Speaker: The position has been explained. The causes for failure came into existence prior to the passing of the Banking Companies Act which gave powers to the Reserve Bank to inspect.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: May we know the name of the Bank whose directors have misappropriated about Rs. 180 lakhs?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is the Calcutta Commercial Bank.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is the Government satisfied that there was no case of *mala fides* on the part of the Managers or Managing Directors of those banks?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, a question of opinion again.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: In the case of banks under liquidation, what steps do Government propose to take to expedite liquidation and thus safeguard the interests of the depositors?

Mr. Speaker: The matter is *sub judice*. It is entirely in the hands of the High Court.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is there any information as to the number of non-scheduled banks that have collapsed in West Bengal?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have no information.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: The Honourable Minister has given figures to show that the book value of the assets of these banks is rather higher than the total deposits. Will the Government see that the depositors may get their proportionate share from this money?

Mr. Speaker: It is not a matter for Government. The matter is *sub judice*, liquidation proceedings are taking place and the High Court will do the whole thing now.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Sir, during the liquidation process the entire assets may be eaten up.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Whatever it is, it is a matter for the High Court.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: The Reserve Bank and the Government of India can interfere.

Mr. Speaker: No arguments on that. He may put questions asking for information.

AYURVEDIC SYSTEM

*74. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the Government of India have taken any decision to recognise the Ayurvedic System of Medicine and to provide facilities for training in Ayurveda to those who desire?

(b) What were the salient features of the recommendations of the Chopra Committee as regards recognising Ayurveda as a System of Medicine in India?

(c) How many of the members, if any, on the Chopra Committee were purely Ayurvedic physicians?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) A statement showing the views of the Government of India on the main recommendations of the Chopra Committee is placed on the table of the House. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 5). The Governments of the provinces and States are being consulted.

(b) A summary of the recommendations of the Chopra Committee will be found in Chapter XIII of Vol. I of their report copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given by me to part (b) of Starred Questions Nos. 74 and 85 asked by Dr. V. Subramaniam and Shri R. V. Dhulekar on the 19th November, 1947.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Has the Committee specifically recommended the establishment of a Government Research Institute for carrying on research in Ayurveda?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That is one of the recommendations.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have Government formulated their views about these recommendations?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have just stated in reply to part (a) that a statement showing the views of the Government of India on the main recommendations is placed on the table of the House.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: With regard to part (b), the Honourable Minister stated that Government are consulting the Provincial Governments. Are Government aware that the Minister in charge of Health in the Madras Province is a confirmed and unrelenting opponent of Ayurveda and no useful purpose will be served?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I would not allow that question.

Shri P. T. Chacko: As regards the facilities, may I know whether Government are maintaining any garden where medicinal plants are grown?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Central Government is not maintaining any such garden.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the Government propose to provide any facilities or grant for research in well-established Ayurvedic Universities such as the one at Jhansi?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: All this will come up for consideration when the Provinces and States have replied as to what their views are in regard to the policy which has been formulated by the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government accepted the recommendation made by this Committee to establish a Central Research Institute?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: You will find all this given in the statement that has been placed on the table of the House. Government would like to have a Central Research Institute.

SCIENTIFIC MANPOWER COMMITTEE

*75. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the Scientific Manpower Committee has submitted its final report?

(b) What are its main recommendations?

(c) What steps are proposed to be taken to implement them?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) Yes.

(b) A summary of the recommendations of the Scientific Manpower Committee is placed on the table of the House. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 6.)

(c) The final report of the Committee is under the consideration of Government. In pursuance of the interim recommendations made by the Committee in July, 1947 provision was made in the current year's budget for operating a scheme of practical training stipends for students and for the institution of research training scholarships and for development of research training facilities in Universities and other educational institutions. Preliminary arrangements for the establishment of the Eastern Higher Technical Institution at Hijli (District Khargpur) have also been completed.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has been entrusted with the compilation of the National Register of Scientific and Technical personnel of India and over 30,000 persons have so far registered themselves with the Council. The first two volumes of the Register are expected to be published shortly.

Due to financial stringency it is most unlikely that Government will undertake any new schemes arising out of the final recommendations of the Committee, which involve financial commitments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are being taken by Government in order to see that a good portion at least of these 30,000 people who have registered themselves are placed in suitable positions?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The matter is under consideration.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has the Government taken any steps to see that scientific people are not removed from their present jobs and put into administrative jobs?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Notice.

LOAN TO MADRAS GOVERNMENT

*76. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether any request has been received from the Government of Madras for a major loan for the development of the province?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No request of this nature was received but a provision of a loan of Rs. 6 crores to the Government of Madras was made in the Central Government's budget for 1949-50 and this provision has now been omitted, as a result of a review of the ways and means position of the Central Government.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: In view of the fact that the Madras Government is spending a lot of money on prohibition, will Government consider the possibility of giving a loan to the Madras Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as I understand, the Madras Government has found money for various schemes like the nationalization of electric supply companies.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have Government made it clear to the Madras Government that unless they go slow with regard to certain other projects, it would be difficult for them to obtain major loans from the Central Government?

Mr. Speaker: It is both an argument and a suggestion for action.

The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

NAWAB MOIN NAWAZ JUNG •

*77. **Shri B. N. Munavalli:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Finance and Foreign Minister of Hyderabad State, Nawab Moin Nawaz Jung was entrusted with money by

H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad in September 1949, when he was heading a delegation to the U. N. Assembly;

(b) if so, what the amount is; and

(c) whether the Nizam of Hyderabad has proceeded against Nawab Moin Nawaz Jung in courts of law, to recover the said amount?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). Yes; an amount of £4,11,065 was transferred by the then Hyderabad Agent General in the United Kingdom to the joint account of Nawab Moin Nawaz Jung and Zahir Ahmed in the Barclay's Bank, London, for expenses in connection with the Hyderabad Delegation to the U. N. Assembly.

(c) Yes.

ARMED FORCES UNIFORMS

*78. **Shri B. N. Munavalli:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to make any important changes in the uniforms, worn by the Indian Armed Forces; and if so, when; and

(b) what those changes are?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). Yes, the changes will be made on the inauguration of the new Constitution. An announcement will be made giving details of these changes as soon as they are finalised and all connected preliminary arrangements are completed.

USE OF WORD 'ROYAL'

*79. **Shri B. N. Munavalli:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government intend to remove the word 'Royal' from R.I.A.F., R.I.N. and Royal Units of the army; and if so, from what date?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, the changes will be made on the inauguration of the new Constitution. An announcement will be made giving details of these changes as soon as they are finalised and all connected preliminary arrangements are completed.

NIZAM'S GOLD

*80. **Shri B. N. Munavalli:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India offered gold for sale, on behalf of H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad?

(b) If so, what is the quantity of gold so offered for sale?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes. I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the press communiques issued by the Reserve Bank of India in this connection on the 7th and 8th October, 1949.

(b) The total quantity of gold sold up to the 4th November 1949, was 70.500 tolas. I regret I am not in a position to indicate the total quantity to be offered for sale.

MOTOR ACCIDENTS

*81. { **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:**
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of motor accidents which occurred in Delhi City during the current year, month by month;

- (b) the number of persons killed;
- (c) the number of people disabled;
- (d) the number of people injured; and
- (e) whether these accidents were covered by the Third Party Insurance?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (d). A statement containing available information is laid on the table of the House (*See Appendix IV, annexure No. 7*). I regret we do not have figures of disabled persons.

(e) Yes.

COMMUNISTS

***82. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the regions and localities in the Indian Dominion which are the stronghold of the Communists;
- (b) the nature, method and extent of the trouble being caused by them;
- (c) the steps taken to combat the conditions created by the Communists; and
- (d) the amount of success so far obtained in combating Communism?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the pamphlet entitled *Communist Violence in India* recently issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, copies of which were circulated to the Honourable Members and are also placed in the Library of the House.

(c) and (d). So far as Provinces are concerned, it is for the Provincial Governments concerned to take such action as may be necessary. As regards the centrally-administered areas, there is no appreciable Communist trouble in these areas but, whenever necessary, precautionary measures such as preventive detention are taken by Government. The situation is well under control.

I.C.S., I.P. AND INDIAN POLITICAL SERVICE

***83. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of I.C.S., I.P. (Indian Police) and the Indian Political Service officers still serving under the Central Government, Provincial Governments, Centrally administered areas and Unions of Indian States;
- (b) the date by which the last of these Officers is likely to retire in the normal course; and

(c) whether any of these Officers were given the option of joining the Indian Administrative Service; and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A statement giving the information is laid on the table of the House. (*See Appendix IV, annexure No. 8*).

(b) In 1979.

(c) No.

INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

***84. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Officers recruited to the Indian Administrative Service since the 15th August 1947; and

- (b) how many of them were appointed—
 - (i) from the Provincial Civil Service,
 - (ii) from among Military Service men,
 - (iii) from among the political sufferers,
 - (iv) from among the refugees,
 - (v) after interview by the Federal Public Service Commission or any Special Board or Committee appointed for the purpose,
 - (vi) after Competitive Examination, and
 - (vii) on other considerations without any interview or competitive examination?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is laid on the table of the House. (*Vide Appendix IV, annexure No. 9*).

RETIRED GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

***85. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of retired officers appointed to Gazetted posts in the various Ministries of the Government of India and Attached offices since 15th August, 1947; and
- (b) the total number of retired officials similarly appointed to non-gazetted posts?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Seventy-nine. Out of these seventeen persons have since been discharged.

(b) Fifty. Out of these five persons have since been discharged.

WATER SHORTAGE IN DELHI

***86. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Delhi experienced water shortage in summer during the years 1948 and 1949; and
- (b) if so, what steps Government are taking to see that such a situation does not arise in future?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) A scheme for the improvement of the supply of filtered water in Delhi costing over a crore of rupees is under execution by the Joint Water and Sewage Board. The plant and machinery required are expected to be installed early in 1950, and it is hoped that adequate water supply will be available during the summer of 1950.

CHOLERA AND DYSENTERY IN DELHI

***87. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of deaths due to (i) cholera and (ii) dysentery in Delhi in the years 1947, 1948 and 1949; and
- (b) what are the causes of the increase in the incidence of death due to these diseases?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) A statement giving the information is laid on the table of the House. (*See Appendix IV, annexure No. 10*).

(b) The very slight increase in the number of deaths on account of Cholera during 1949 and Dysentery and Diarrhoea during 1948, is due to the fact that the population of Delhi Province has increased by about 5,00,000 during 1948 on account of partition. It is not in fact an increase.

ADULTERATION OF MILK AND FOOD-STUFFS

***88. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adulteration of milk is on the increase in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to check the adulteration of milk particularly and other food stuffs generally?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 11).

FEDERAL COURT

***89. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Judges in the Federal Court of India in the years 1947, 1948 and 1949;

(b) the number of cases decided by the Federal Court of India in 1947 and 1948;

(c) the number of cases pending at the end of 1948 and the number of cases pending as on 1st November, 1949;

(d) whether there is any proposal to expand the Federal Court of India on its conversion into the Supreme Court of India; and

(e) what the proposed strength on and after the 26th January, 1950 will be?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Three in 1947, three in 1948 up to October, and five from October 1948 onwards till date.

(b) Twenty-five in each of the years 1947 and 1948.

(c) Thirty-seven cases were pending at the end of 1948 and seventy-nine on the 1st November 1949.

(d) and (e). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to Article 124 (1) of the new Constitution which provides that the Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice of India and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, not more than seven other Judges.

CENSUS OFFICERS

***90. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the directions proposed to be issued to the Census Officers and Enumerators with regard to the recording of castes and sub-castes of the people of India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It has been decided to record only those castes whose enumeration is required for purposes laid down in the draft Constitution. Accordingly the enumeration will be confined to Scheduled Castes, scheduled tribes and other economically and educationally backward castes. The Provincial Governments have been asked to give a list of such castes.

REVENUE FROM INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

***91. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the actual income on (i) Information and (ii) Broadcasting for the years 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49; and

(b) what the expectation of revenue for the year 1949-50 is?

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 12).

POLITICAL PENSIONS

***92. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether any political pensions are still being paid to the descendants of:

(1) Moghul Emperor, Bahadur Shah of Delhi,

(2) Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Sikh Ruler of Lahore,

(3) The Bhonsla Ruler of Nagpur,

(4) Tippoo Sultan,

(5) any other Ruler with whom the British Authorities at any time entered into treaty arrangements to ensure such payments; and

(b) if so, the amounts now being paid in each of the above mentioned cases?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A statement showing the amounts of political pensions paid to the descendants of the various Rulers is laid on the table of the House. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 13).

(b) Information regarding payment of pensions to the descendants of the Moghul Emperor Bahadur Shah is being collected from the Accounts authorities and will be furnished as soon as it is available.

RANCHI EUROPEAN MENTAL HOSPITAL

***93. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of European inmates in the Ranchi European Mental Hospital as on the 1st April, 1947;

(b) their present number;

(c) whether any Indians suffering from mental diseases are now admitted into this Hospital; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to consider the feasibility of doing so?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Seventy-one.

(b) Thirty-five.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

PROHIBITION IN DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA

***94. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what progress has so far been made in the implementation of the prohibition policy in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, and to what extent revenue has been affected thereby?

(b) Have Government fixed any target date by which complete prohibition will be introduced in these Provinces? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 14).

PRODUCTION OF DRUGS

*95. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government of India have taken so far or contemplate to take in future, to standardise the production of drugs, in India, and what progress has been made in this direction in the various Provinces, States and Unions of States, and by which date it is expected to be fully brought into force?

(b) In which Provinces the provisions of the Drugs Act and the Rules thereunder are being strictly enforced and the Drug Manufacturers required to obtain a Licence for manufacturing drugs?

(c) In which Provinces does a Government machinery exist to check and test the various drugs manufactured before those are sent to market for sale?

(d) In which of the Centrally Administered areas are the provisions of the Drugs Act and the Rules thereunder being enforced and with what results?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The Drugs Act and the Rules made thereunder provide for the regulation of import into and the manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs in India. The rules are being enforced by the Central and Provincial Governments from the 1st April 1947. Under the Act and the Rules, drugs manufactured in the country or those imported from abroad are required to conform to the prescribed standards and patent or proprietary medicines have either to be registered at the Central Drugs Laboratory after their formula has been disclosed to the Director of the Laboratory or their formula or the list of ingredients has to be displayed on the label of the container.

(b) and (d). The Drugs Act and the Rules are in force in all the Provinces and the Centrally Administered Areas and the Drugs manufacturers have to obtain a licence for the manufacture of drugs. The Act does not however, extend to the States or the Unions of States.

(c) It is the responsibility of the manufacturer to ensure that the products made by him are of the prescribed standards. If any one manufactures for sale, or sells Drugs which are not of the prescribed standard he renders himself liable to prosecution.

NATIONAL CADET CORPS

*96. **Shri Yudhisthir Mishra:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state as to how many centres have so far been opened in Orissa to train students for the National Cadet Corps and whether any further steps are being taken for its expansion?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There are two Infantry Battalions of the Senior Division Army Wing of the National Cadet Corps in Orissa. The 1st Orissa Battalion, whose headquarters is in Cuttack, consists of four companies, one each at Cuttack, Sambalpur, Baripada and Balasore. The 2nd Orissa Battalion has its headquarters at Berhampur and consists of two companies, one located at Berhampur and the other at Puri. In addition, there are twenty Junior Division Troops in various High Schools located in important district towns.

It is proposed to raise next year a Medical unit of the Senior Division in the Medical College at Cuttack.

PRIVY PURSE OF MAHARAJA OF TRAVANCORE

*97. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the privy purse of the Maharaja of Travancore is finally fixed

(b) if so, the amount thus fixed;

(c) the amount the Maharaja used to draw from the State Revenues before he was appointed as the Raj-pramukh;

(d) if the privy purse is not finally fixed, the amount provisionally given as privy purse; and

(e) whether the representatives of the people or the popular Government in the state were consulted before fixing the privy purse, or the amount which is now given as privy purse?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The privy purse of the present Maharaja has been fixed.

(b) Rupees 18 lakhs.

(c) Rupees 15 lakhs: but on the eve of integration, His Highness made over to the State certain lands the income from which was formerly allotted to his exclusive personal use: this income was of the order of Rs. 5 lakhs per annum.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes.

OPIMUM

*98. { **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:**
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the income derived from opium by the different provinces and the integrated states of India?

(b) Has it been ascertained from the provinces and states that they are willing to fall in line with the All India policy?

(c) Which are the states which have so far prohibited opium entirely in their jurisdictions and which are the provinces and states that have taken to partial prohibition?

(d) What was the decision arrived at in the Excise Ministers Conference held at Delhi in August last?

(e) What steps have been taken by the provinces to implement the said decision?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to reply to Question No. 9 answered on the 1st February, 1949.

The information for the later period is being called from the various units and will be placed before the House when received.

(b) Yes.

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed before the House when complete.

(d) The Conference adopted a number of resolutions a copy of which is placed on the table of the House. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 15).

(e) They have agreed to make a gradual cut in the supplies of opium authorised for addicts, to prescribe issues of opium only on medical advice and to resort to total or partial prohibition of opium as may be found feasible.

STERLING BALANCES

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

(a) whether he has seen the speech of Sir Stafford Cripps in the British House of Commons on 26th October 1949 regarding sterling balances; and

(b) whether statements made in that speech affect India's claim for full and early repayment of the balances?

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

(b) As the Honourable Member is aware, I am moving a motion for consideration of the 1949 Sterling Balances Agreement today immediately after question hour is over. In the course of my speech on that motion I shall deal with the points raised in this part of the question. It would, I suggest, be more appropriate, therefore, not to attempt to reply now.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER.

INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE (RECRUITMENT)

3. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications received for admission to the Indian Administrative Service since its inauguration;

(b) how many of these applicants were called for interview by the Federal Public Service Commission or any other body;

(c) how many of those interviewed were finally appointed and how many were rejected;

(d) the number of those who still remain to be interviewed;

(e) the total number of vacancies still remaining to be filled up in this service under the Central Government, the Provinces, the Centrally administered areas and the Unions of States; and

(f) the period likely to be taken to fill up the above vacancies?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 22219.

(b) 3840.

(c) 205, the rest were rejected.

(d) None.

(e) (i) 97 in the Provincial Indian Administrative Service Cadres.

(ii) There is no separate cadre for the Central Government or the Centrally Administered Areas.

(iii) The Indian Administrative Service cadres strength in the Unions of States have not yet been finalised. No estimate of the number of vacancies can yet be given.

(f) The Indian Administrative Service cadres in all the Provinces are expected to be brought up to full strength by 1953.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Wednesday, 30th November, 1949

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

FOOD DELEGATIONS

***100. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the number of delegations that went to foreign countries during the period from 1st January, 1949 to date for the purchase of food grains and for other matters relating to agriculture?

(b) What are the names of such delegations and the places they visited and what is the cost incurred by Government on each delegation?

(c) Was any order placed through any private firms or were all transactions executed on Government-to-Government basis?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). No delegation was sent to foreign countries during the period from 1st January 1949 to 31st October, 1949 for the purchase of food grains. Fifteen delegations of which thirteen were single member delegations were however, sent in connection with food and agriculture matters. Two statements showing the names of such delegations, places visited, cost incurred and the purpose of the visit are laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 1.)

(c) In view of the above question does not arise.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know how many Food Conferences were held during this period in Delhi, both Ministers and officials?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I thought the question related to delegations sent abroad. I will not be able to give the exact number of the Conferences held; it may be two or three.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is a Conference being held yesterday and today in Delhi, and may I know if the Provincial Governments welcome such Conferences, and what is the cost of such Conferences?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the Honourable Member is going beyond the scope of the question. The question is restricted to foreign delegations.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: He has not mentioned the cost of those delegations.

Mr. Speaker: I think it is included in the statement.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the cost of the delegation?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The total cost was about Rs. 2,500 per delegation sent by the Agriculture Ministry. If you will refer to the statement, you will find the information. We have given the cost of each

delegation and on an average it works out to Rs. 2,500 per delegation. The total for agricultural delegations is about Rs. 38,000. Most of them were singleman delegations and were sent to nearby Asian countries, some to Karachi, some to Bangkok, some to Singapore and some to Australia. The cost of the delegation sent by the Food Ministry is also small and is shown in the statement.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the quantity of food grains purchased by Government during the current year?

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: How does that arise out of this question?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The question is about purchase of food grains.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No delegation was sent at all for the purchase of food grains. If I may explain, one delegation was sent to Iraq. The purpose was to arrange for shipping freight and inspection arrangements. As a result of spending only Rs. 6,418 we have made a saving of Rs. 6 lakhs on shipping freight, because our representative succeeded in reducing freight by 50 per cent. He was also able to reduce the inspection charges by 25 per cent., which has meant further saving of half a lakh. He was also able to advise, being on the spot by process of discussion that barley was being offered at £5 more than the real market rate there and we did not enter into that transaction. Each delegation has saved us lakhs of rupees. If you want, I can give details.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Then send some more delegations.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the purchase of these food grains is arranged through private agency or directly by Government?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is on Government-to-Government account, not by private agency.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the statement include the deal about Brazil barley made by our late Ambassador to Turkey after an arduous journey from Ankara to London?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is known that no delegation was sent from here and the deal did not come off at all.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that the deal saved Government about £50,000 as stated by the Prime Minister in the last Session?

Mr. Speaker: It may be the subject matter of a Question.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Has the Government published any account of the achievements of these delegations?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am prepared to give a summary of what has been done by each delegation.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is the quality taken into consideration while purchases are made or only the price?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is going into administrative details. Next question.

PRICES OF SUGAR

*101. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the prices of sugar which prevailed in the following areas in April, July, August, September and October 1949:—Bombay, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Poona, Nagpur, Kanpur, Amritsar, Lucknow, Banaras, Agra, Calcutta, Madras, Simla, Jubbulpore, Hyderabad, Jodhpur and Patna?

(b) What are the causes of the present high prices of sugar and what is the current ex-factory controlled price per maund?

(c) Have Government taken any steps to check the high prices? If so, what are they?

(d) What is the amount of export pool money lying with the Sugar Syndicate?

(e) What were the prices of sugar prevailing in Brazil, Java and Mauritius c.i.f. Indian ports in the months of August, September and October 1949 and what were the prices of Indian sugar in the same months?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A statement showing the prices of sugar during the months of April to October 1949 in places for which information is available is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 2.)

(b) The cause of the rise in prices of sugar was the speculative purchases by merchants due to the rumour that export of sugar to Pakistan and elsewhere may be allowed in substantial quantities and the publication by the Syndicate of the fact that a very large percentage of the year's production had already been sold out by the factories and the consequent feeling that there might be a shortage in the remaining months of the year, in view of increased demand.

The current ex-factory price is Rs. 28-8-0 for E-27 Grade sugar.

(c) Government took the following steps to make sugar available to people at reduced prices: (i) Stocks with the factories were frozen and allotted to Provinces and States for distribution, (ii) powers were delegated to Provincial Governments to license trade and take over stocks and distribute them through such agencies as might be fixed upon, (iii) forward trading in sugar was banned, and (iv) the Provincial and State Governments were asked to take all possible steps to maximise production in the ensuing season.

(d) It is understood that Rs. 10 lakhs have so far been collected by the Syndicate as export pool money.

(e) The prices of foreign sugar, so far as information is available, were as follows:

Brazil	October	Rs. 31/4/- per maund	local price there
Cuba	October	Rs. 16/15/5 „ „	(f.o.b.)
Java	August to October	Rs. 21/8/2 „ „	(ex-warehouse at Ports).
Mauritius	—	Prices not available.	

The price of sugar in India during August ranged between Rs. 36-2-0 and Rs. 42-8-0. In September-October the price of uncontrolled stocks had risen in some places to Rs. 60 a maund.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the date on which orders were issued for freezing the stocks and on what dates they reached the provincial governments and when did they execute them?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I despatched personal telegrams round about 10 o'clock on 1st September containing instructions and they reached almost all the Ministers concerned early next morning or the same night.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: When was the first order issued from the Secretariat?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: On 2nd September.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: On what date was the general information conveyed to the Press?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: A note was issued I believe the same night to the Press.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether, before the orders issued from the Secretariat here reached the Bihar Government, some 2000 bags were actually despatched to Bombay from Bihar and although the Honourable Minister's attention was drawn to this, he took no notice of it?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have no recollection of it. I will certainly go into the matter.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know if the merchants from Bombay went to the Honourable Minister in October and showed him the railway receipts and the dates on which they were despatched?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have no recollection. I will go into the matter if given the reference.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if in the statement he has given regarding prices ruling at various places he has also indicated the places where no sugar is available?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have given the prices for the places for which enquiry was made.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is it a fact that the freezing order applied only to stocks with sugar mills and not to stocks with dealers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, to factories. But the provincial governments were also authorised to deal with the stocks of the wholesale dealers if they wanted to.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is it a fact that no stocks of wholesalers were frozen and actually large stocks were left lying in the hands of traders?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That, I think, happened in many cases.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What steps were taken by the Provincial Governments, immediately after issue of the freezing order, to find out what was the stock with the dealers? How many days did they take to find this out?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to give in detail the steps taken by the Provincial Governments.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Has not the Honourable Member gone into the serious complaint in regard to the time-lag between the issue of the freezing order and the examination of the stocks with the dealers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That might have taken place.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is it a fact that for the first ten or fifteen days after the freezing order was issued, no arrangements for the distribution of sugar by dealers were made?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The position is that the Central Government issued instructions for the freezing of the stocks. The next step was to allocate the stocks to the provinces. It was not possible for the Central Government to allocate stocks to the provinces, unless they knew what stocks existed with each factory. The Provincial Governments were to be given authority to take certain quantities from certain factories. Therefore, the information had first to be obtained as to how much stock was available with each factory, so that the Provincial Governments may place their orders on these factories in terms of the allocation made to them.

Mr. Speaker: I think as the Government are going to allot a day for discussion of this subject, it is better that we do not take the time available to the other questions. Honourable Members will have an opportunity of putting all

sorts of questions and advancing arguments during the course of the debate on the day allotted to this subject. Had there not been allotment of a day for discussion, I would have proceeded further with this question.

An Honourable Member: Has the date been fixed?

Mr. Speaker: I understand it will be during the course of the session; the date has not yet been fixed.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: It is astonishing that in view of the serious complaints with regard to the shortage of sugar, Government should not possess even this simple information about this matter.

Mr. Speaker: That will be a matter for comment when the subject comes up for discussion. Today I am concerned with the question and in the interest of other questions being put through and answered in the House, I think we need not take any more time over this.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: My point is that the subject matter of this question is so very important that we want to elicit as much information as possible so that we may be prepared to refute the arguments advanced by Government when the discussion takes place.

Mr. Speaker: That information can be obtained by having a talk with the Minister. We need not debar other questions coming up for answer in the House.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, Government is desirous that the House should be in ample possession of as much information as we have and before the discussion takes place in the House, we will circulate a full note on the subject.

THE AIR INDIA INTERNATIONAL

***102. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state what controlling interest Government have in the Air India International?

(b) What has been the loss or profit since Government entered into partnership with the company?

(c) Who represents the Government on the Board of Directors?

(d) What are the overhead charges and other expenditure of the said company?

(e) How many passengers have been carried by the said service ever since its inception upto date and what is the carrying capacity of planes normally employed by the company?

(f) What is the income of the company on account of passenger fares, freight and carriage of Government mails?

(g) Is it a fact that Government have issued instructions that all Government officials and Government sponsored deputations proceeding to foreign countries should make use of this line?

(h) If so, has there been any breach by any officials or non-officials by travelling in a liner other than the Air India International although accommodation in the latter was available?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Government of India hold 49 per cent. of the share capital of Air India International Limited with the option to acquire at any time an additional 2 per cent. Of the six Directors of the Company, three are nominated by Government, including the

Special Government Director who has power to reserve for Government's approval any project costing Rs. 10,00,000 or more; the Chairman is nominated by the Air India Limited subject to approval of the Government.

(b) The total loss, as reported by the Company, for the period 8th March to 31st December, 1948 is Rs. 53,93,363 made up as follows:

	Rs.
(i) Initial depreciation under the Income Tax Act.	23,97,962
(ii) Normal depreciation.	13,01,349
(iii) Initial expenses on training of staff.	12,70,184
(iv) Operating loss (Nett)	4,23,868
	53,93,363

Out of this loss the Government has paid the Company Rs. 19,79,254, subject to Government audit, to cover the operating loss and the normal depreciation and one fifth of the initial expenses which are spread over five years. The question of payment of the initial depreciation is under consideration.

(c) The Special Government Director, Shri T. P. Bhalla, Director General of Civil Aviation, the other two Directors nominated by Government are Shri R. Narayanaswami, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Shri M. A. Srinivasan.

(d) Excluding capital cost amounting to Rs. 1,22,02,651, and the depreciation and initial expenses already specified in answer to part (b), the recurring cost, 8th March to 31st December, 1948, was Rs. 53,25,139 which, in the absence of any precise definition of overheads, is grouped as follows:

	Rs.
(i) Office expenses, interest, employees welfare insurance and fees of the Management, Directors and Auditors.	9,72,370
(ii) Salaries and wages.	18,98,815
(iii) Operational expenses, including fuel, oil, engineering, maintenance and traffic costs.	24,53,954

(e) Number of passengers carried from 8th June 1948 (date of commencement of scheduled operations) upto 31st August 19497,338.

Capacity offered during the period ... 8,760 seats
Capacity of Constellation aircraft ... 40 seats.

(f) Revenue earned during the period 8th June 1948 to 31st August 1949:

(i) Passenger fares	Rs. 98,37,000
(ii) Freight and excess baggage	Rs. 12,90,000
(iii) Mails	Rs. 24,96,000
	Rs. 1,36,29,000

(g) Instructions have been issued to the effect that all Government officials and Government sponsored delegations visiting western countries at Government expense should make use of the services of Air India International as far as possible.

(h) There have been some cases in which Government servants did not or could not avail of the Air India International Service and have travelled by other airlines. Such instances have however become rare.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Sir, may I know whether the staff of the Air India International is quite separate from the Air India?

Shri Khurshed Lal: No, in some cases the Air India staff works for Air India International and they are paid for that on the same basis.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the highest salary that is paid to Air India International officers and how many officers are employed by that airline?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I am afraid I could not give that information.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Are Government satisfied that the overhead charges of the Air India International are moderate, and that they are not extravagant?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Government are examining the entire accounts sent by the Company and they are being audited.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Is the Government in possession of any information in regard to the possible losses or profits that will arise out of the operation of this company during the current year?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I am not in a position to make a forecast of the profits or losses in the current year. It is obvious that in the first year of operations, the losses would be greater than they would be in the subsequent years.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am merely asking whether Government is keeping in touch with the Directorate of the Company and asking them to submit periodical reports, in view of the fact that the losses in the first year happen to be about 30 per cent. of the capital assets of the company.

Shri Khurshed Lal: We have got our officers on the directorate and we are keeping in touch with the affairs of the company.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask, Sir, if the Honourable the Finance Minister will enlighten this House whether he has any control over this matter which entails such a heavy loss to the tax-payer?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is a representative of the Ministry of Finance on the Board of Directors, but since the payments which become due to the company in respect of its losses are payments which have been stipulated as a matter of agreement, there is a limit to which we can exercise any kind of restriction. But as far as the normal operations of the company and the expenses are concerned, they are under the constant scrutiny of the representatives of the Ministry of Finance.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister call for a quarterly report on the balance sheet of this Company in view of the enormous risk that the taxpayer is undertaking in this concern?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Since a representative of the Finance Ministry is on the Board, at every meeting the representative of the Ministry is in a position to acquaint himself with the financial affairs of the company and I am therefore in constant touch with the matter through him.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know who, out of the three representatives of the Government on the Board, represents the Finance Ministry? Is it Mr. Srinivasan?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Mr. R. Narayanaswami who is Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I ask the Honourable Minister to read out once again the answer to part (b) of the question which I did not follow?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Yes, Sir. The total loss, as reported by the Company, for the period 8th March to 31st December, 1948, is Rs. 53,93,363 made up as follows:

	Rs.
(i) Initial depreciation under the Income Tax Act	23,97,962
(ii) Normal depreciation	13,01,349
(iii) Initial expenses on training of staff	12,70,184
(iv) Operating loss (Nett)	4,23,868
TOTAL	53,93,363

Out of this loss the Government has paid the Company Rs. 19,79,254, subject to Government audit, to cover the operating loss and the normal depreciation and one fifth of the initial expenses which are spread over five years. The question of payment of the initial depreciation is under consideration.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know whether the contribution of Rs. 19 lakhs to cover the operating loss of the company is over and above the subsidy which is granted for carrying the mails?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I do not know of any subsidy granted. They are paid for the mails which they carry. Perhaps my honourable friend is confusing the Air India International with Air India.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: A certain sum is paid for carrying mails. Is this in addition to what is so paid?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The amount that is paid for carrying mails is in accordance with the load carried under International rules.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know what is overhead charges paid for? Are they different from the freight charges for mails?

Shri Khurshed Lal: As stated in answer to part (d), it is very difficult to give a definition of overhead charges. I have given the details. If the Honourable Member wants I shall repeat it.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Does the Deputy Minister accept the position that in India the air lines which operate do not charge more than 2½ annas per mile?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: We will proceed to the next question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know the percentage of this loss to the capital invested?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I could not follow the question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: What is the total capital invested in the company and what percentage does this loss hold in relation to it?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The capital invested is about 2 crores. The Government share is 49 per cent. or Rs. 98 lakhs.

Shr. S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: May I know if the audit is done by the Auditor General to the Government of India or by private auditors?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The company auditor audits the accounts, not the Auditor General of the Government of India.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In view of the heavy responsibility which the Government of India have undertaken, will the Government see that the audit is done by the Auditor General of India?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether a loss of 25 per cent. of the capital is not excessive when compared with similar losses incurred by other companies during the first year?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I require notice of the question.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any concession has been given in the price of petrol to the Air India International?

Shri Khurshed Lal: No concession has been given in the price of petrol to this company especially.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Deputy Minister stated that the Government are considering the question of overhead charges. Are they actually considering or are they contemplating to consider?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I know whether it is not the practice in joint stock companies not to look upon this loss as loss, but as capital outlay?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I do not think any company considers depreciation as capital outlay.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In view of the colossal loss the company is sustaining, may I know whether the Government are considering plans to avert this loss or to make suggestions to the company to wind up or modify its activities? Sir, may I know whether the Government have seriously made any suggestion to the company to avert this heavy loss?

Mr. Speaker: They are all suggestions.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: In view of the loss incurred this matter requires careful consideration. But I think we are under a misapprehension about this loss business. There have been losses; but if we study any of the big air lines developing, we will grant that certain initial expenses will have to be met. They are heavy. But, on the whole, instead of stopping this, I am prepared to congratulate the company on the way they have conducted their business.

DUTCH PLANE CRASH IN BOMBAY

***103. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a communique has been issued by Government regarding the recent crash in Bombay of a plane belonging to the Dutch Airline;

(b) if not, what the reasons for the delay are;

(c) whether it is a fact that a committee was appointed by the Government of India and the Dutch Government to make a report on the incident; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the report has been finalised?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) No Sir, no communique has yet been issued on the results of the enquiry into the accident.

(b) to (d). A Committee was appointed by the Director General of Civil Aviation to investigate into the accident and to make a report and a group of officials and Technical Advisors of the Dutch Government were associated with the enquiry. A provisional Report has been prepared by the Committee and the Director General has invited comments from the Dutch Aviation authorities, since their representatives rendered assistance in the enquiry.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I ask whether the committee has made a report?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member said that a Provisional report has been prepared by the Committee.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the recommendations made in the report?

Shri Khurshed Lal: As I said, we have sent the report to the Dutch Government who assisted us in the enquiry. We do not propose to publish the report without their suggestions.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I ask whether the Committee has suggested the cutting down of the Bavai hills and if so what the cost of it will be?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I am not prepared to give out the contents of the report.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is there any secrecy about it?

Mr. Speaker: He does not wish to disclose the contents of the report.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it because it is confidential?

Mr. Speaker: There is no use making reference to a report which is in the hands of the experts.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the fact that Santa Cruz is fast becoming or has become an International Airport, have the Government taken care to see that the aerodrome is equipped with the most modern appliances and devices?

Shri Khurshed Lal: All possible efforts consistent with our financial position have been made to equip this air port with the necessary equipment.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any truth in the report that the K.L.M. Liner was warned off the runway, because it was under repair?

Shri Khurshed Lal: That is again entering into what happened at the time. It is going into the contents of the report.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: How long after the accident was the Log Book at Santa Cruz taken possession of by Government?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I require notice of that.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether, when the plane was flying over Santa Cruz aerodrome, any signal was given by the Santa Cruz aerodrome that the weather was not good and therefore the plane must direct to some other place?

Shri Khurshed Lal: All these are matters which are involved in that report.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the secrecy about all these things? After all, the public is interested in knowing the facts.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a matter of secrecy. It is a matter of courtesy to those who helped in that enquiry. It is not thought proper to give any publicity to what we think about it without consulting them. There seems to be nothing confidential or secret about it. Next question.

RAILWAY BOARD

*104. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any change has been made in the constitution of the Railway Board after the attainment of Independence and if so, the particulars thereof;

(b) if not, whether Government intend to make any change now;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor;

(d) how many references have been made to the Honourable Minister by the Railway Board since 15th August 1947; and

(e) how many cases the Railway Board have disposed of after 15th August, 1947 with the powers vested in them, which are equivalent to the powers of the Minister, without consulting the Ministry?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) No. The Railway Board as constituted under the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905 (Act IV of 1905), was reconstituted into its present form in 1923, but it has not undergone any change in constitution since the attainment of Independence.

(b) Government have under examination the question of the character and composition of the authority which will control railway operation and policy from the Centre and as part of this examination the question of whether any, and what, changes are required in the Constitution and functioning of the Railway Board will be gone into.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). The Railway Board functions like any other Ministry of Government in that all questions involving policy and major administrative arrangements are submitted to me for orders. Cases which have any financial implications are examined by the Financial Commissioner who functions in respect of railway finance in the same way as the Finance Secretary does in relation to general finance. Thus, though the decisions are ordinarily those of the Railway Board, they are, particularly in important matters decisions of the Railway Ministry.

It is not possible to state the number of cases disposed of by the Railway Board without reference to me except that they must constitute the great bulk of the cases coming up for disposal. I might however mention for the information of the Honourable Member that the full Board not only takes my orders on all matters of importance but also meets me at least once a week when important issues are discussed; in addition, individual members of the Board and the Chief Commissioner meet me or the Minister of State whenever necessary to discuss important cases, or obtain our orders in writing on such cases.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether there is any written constitution for the Railway Board?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The Constitution is contained in orders issued by Government.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether, in view of the fact that the Railway Board are in charge of large sums of money, there are any rules or regulations showing what are the powers of the Railway Board?

Mr. Speaker: It is obvious.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what are the financial powers of the Railway Board, of the Chief Commissioner and the General Managers?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: There is an Indian Railway Board Act under which powers are delegated by Government vesting in the Railway Board all the powers of the Central Government in regard to railway operation and finance. It is under that Act that powers are conferred on the Railway Board.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the maximum amount that the Railway Board can spend without reference to Government?

Mr. Speaker: If it is a matter that can be obtained from records, the Honourable Member can refer to the relevant records.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that, while the Honourable Minister says there is a Constitution for the Railway Board, the Secretary says that there is nothing like a Constitution?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: This is not a correct representation of what the Secretary told Mr. Sidhva.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: It is not a question of his telling me. It is in writing.

Mr. Speaker: There must be some notification or publication on it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We would like to know whether such orders have been published at all, from which members can know the extent of the powers of the Railway Board.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The Railway Board's powers can be found in publications which are published by the Railway Board, giving their financial powers, their powers in regard to staff and so on.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Are Government under any obligation, has any undertaking been given, to the present incumbents of the Railway Board that so long as they are in service their salaries, etc., will not be touched just as in the case of the Indian Civil Service?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: There are assurances given to them similar to those given to the Indian Civil Service personnel, and these assurances have got to be respected.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if the reconstitution of the Railway Authority will be made the subject of an amending Act or if it is going to be done departmentally?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: That is being taken up along with the scheme for the integration of the railway systems in this country, and if legislation is required, it will be undertaken.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If legislation is not required, may I know whether Government will take the House into its confidence before taking the final decision?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Certainly.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Whatever the reasons for the undertaking given to the Indian Civil Service personnel in the interests of retaining their experience, was a similar undertaking necessary in the case of the Railway Board members?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the Honourable Member is trying to argue.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: The Railway Board seems to enjoy something like autonomy and is somewhat independent of the Railway Ministry and, if so, is it not necessary to change the position?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The Railway Board exercises powers which have been delegated to them under law by the Government. They are autonomous in the sense that, within the sphere of delegated authority, they can pass any orders they like.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know what is the position and status of the Public Relations Officer in between the Railway Board and the Ministry of Railways, and also whether Government have any intention of having the Public Relations Officer directly under the Ministry of Railways in view of the fact that he is to have independence of action?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We have Public Relations Officers both at the Centre and in connection with individual railway administrations. They work in close liaison with the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, so that publicity is done both in the interests of the railways and in co-ordination with such publicity as is done in respect of the Government as a whole.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have the members of the Railway Board accepted any voluntary cut in their pay or is the compulsory savings scheme being applied in their case?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: They have behaved in exactly the same way as the I.C.S. officers have done.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it a fact that the impression that the Railway Board is in many matters independent of the Government absolutely unfounded?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think strictly speaking it should be described as unfounded because there is nothing which prevents the Minister from giving instructions in respect of any matter even if it is within the sphere of the Railway Board's delegated authority.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Morally; not legally.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Is it not a fact that because in the past the Railway Board did not have sufficient powers of co-ordination and control that the different railway systems operated according to disparate standards with consequent loss of efficiency?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think that would be an inaccurate description of the reasons for such want of co-ordination as the Honourable Member may have found.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: The Honourable Minister stated in reply to my question that Government have delegated certain powers to the Railway Board. Following our Independence, do these powers now conflict with the powers of the Ministry and when the Government intend to make the Railway Board just as amenable to the discipline of the Ministry in line with other Departments?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, even before we attained Independence, there was, not the Minister for Railways, but a Member for Railways in the old Executive Council; but now after Independence, I have already said that the Railway Board functions like any other Ministry of Government. It functions under the general supervision and control of the Minister in charge.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that he is considering the revision of this Railway Board Constitution. May I know whether he will take the Finance Railway Committee into confidence and this House into confidence.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The Honourable Member knows that I do not keep anything away from the Railway Standing Finance Committee. If they want the information, it will be furnished.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: At least in the Railway Board matter, I think it was not taken into confidence, when I put a question . . .

Mr. Speaker: It is very wrong to base criticisms in that manner.

MANUFACTURING OF LOCOMOTIVES

*105. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Finance Commissioner for Railways had been to London to negotiate for the purchase of machinery for manufacturing locomotives in India? If so, what is the result of his visit?

(b) When are locomotives likely to be manufactured in India and what is likely to be the total cost for installation of necessary factories?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) No and, therefore, the second part of the question does not arise.

(b) It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the production of locomotives in the new factories which are under construction. The first locomotives from the Locomotive Manufacturing Works, Chittaranjan, are likely to be completed during the last quarter of 1950.

The total cost of the project at Chittaranjan is expected to be about Rs. 14.75 crores.

D.T.S. STRIKE

***106. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the loss incurred by the Delhi Transport Service due to the last strike by its employees;

(b) the number of employees discharged for striking work;

(c) the number of new appointments, both temporary and permanent, made during the strike; and

(d) the number of these new employees still in service?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) About Rs. 1,38,000.

(b) 1,227.

(c) 596, all temporary.

(d) 170.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know what were the grievances of these employees of the D.T.S. on which they had to take this extreme course?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: So far as the actual grievances are concerned, there is another question to which I shall be giving detailed answers.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: How many of these employees who were discharged for striking were re-absorbed?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: All, except 141.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: What were the reasons as to why these 141 were not employed again?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: It was because there were no vacancies. We had to absorb them gradually and we have not been able to find place for these 141.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I take it that these 141 people will be absorbed eventually?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Yes, Sir. We have given instructions that they should be given preference over other applicants whenever there are vacancies.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that when the next question comes, he would like to give an answer. It may not reach; it is not possible, I do not know. Will he therefore give us the answer here?

Mr. Speaker: What is the next question?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I do not know what is the number of the question he was referring. We will not reach that.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: May I also point out that the actual complaints are not involved in this actual question. I can read the reply to question No. 130, if you so permit but it will only be taking up the time of other questions which come before this question.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister lay before the House the report of the Committee of Inquiry appointed by the Minister which led to the dismissal of the General Manager.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, there was no committee of inquiry appointed by the Ministry of Transport nor did it result in the dismissal of the Manager.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Has the General Manager been dismissed?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: No, his term of service was over and someone else has been appointed.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know the cause of removal or the termination of his service.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I have already stated that he was not dismissed at all. He was only a temporary servant and his services were terminated in the usual course, and someone else appointed in his place.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Did the General Manager and another person make an inquiry into the affairs of the D.T.S. and was some action taken on the result?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: On technical matters we asked certain persons to advise us and two persons were asked to advise on specific matters and they have given us some advice, but there was no formal committee of enquiry.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the report of these persons be placed before the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the workers of the D.T.S. have got a Union of their own, and if so, under the I.N.T.U.C.?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Not so far as I know.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In spite of the fact, Sir, that the strike was not declared illegal by Government why was punitive action taken on such a large scale against the employees of the D.T.S.?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The strike was wholly uncalled for and it did cause a great deal of harm to the public, and therefore no one can get off with impunity.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Does the Honourable Minister say that any lawful strike will not be permitted because it caused inconvenience?

Mr. Speaker: This is a hypothetical argument.

WIND MILLS

***107. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have carried out any experiments regarding the use of wind mills as a source of power for irrigation or any other purpose?

(b) If so, what are the results of such experiments?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Some experimental work has been carried out at the Poona Observatory on the utilisation of windpower for pumping water.

(b) The results obtained at the Poona Observatory were not considered encouraging for the extended use of wind mills for crop irrigation requiring large quantities of water at specific periods of crop development. But an expert committee which examined the question has suggested that experiments may be carried out to investigate their suitability for large scale irrigation by installing wind mills at certain selected places in different parts of India, where the necessary velocity of the wind is maintained during a certain period of time and the Provincial and State Governments have been requested to prepare schemes for the purpose. Twelve places have been recommended for the experiment.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May know, Sir, whether these experiments that have been carried have given a promising result?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Not those that were carried out at the Poona Observatory.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know if the result of such experiments are promising?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: These experiments are to be carried out now by the Provincial Governments at places selected.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I ask when we can get the report?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The experiment has not yet been started.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are these 12 places where these experiments are being conducted?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Allahabad, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhuj, Pusa, Bombay, Poona, Belgaum, Melgaon, Coimbatore, Trichanopoly and Vizagapatam.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Have Government explored the possibility of manufacturing wind mills in India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I require notice of that question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is Allahabad reported to be windy enough to enable the Ministry to have its experiment with "Wind Mills"? Are these places selected on the basis of any observatory report?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes; they are selected on the basis of reports as to the velocity of wind in those places.

COLLAPSE OF HUTMENTS

*108. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken against various officers whose defective supervision was found by the Enquiry Committee to be responsible for the collapse of a number of hutments in the Northern Extension Area (Pusa Road), New Delhi, after heavy rains in last July; and

(b) the action taken against the contractors who built those houses?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) Charges have been framed against the officers who were *prima facie* responsible for the defective supervision, and the disciplinary proceedings are in progress.

(b) All the damage, which on investigation was found to have been due to faulty construction, is being repaired at the expense of the contractors, who

were responsible for the work, except for the five seriously damaged houses, the site for re-building which is under consideration.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether any other hutments have collapsed after July last?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: No.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Has the Contractor been removed from the list of authorized contractors?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Most of these contractors were refugee contractors.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, what is the average life of these hutments according to Government?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: These were temporary houses.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, is it fair to this House that the Minister concerned should be absent from the House when the business of the House should have top priority with him, and that the officiating Minister should be burdened with his duties?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I do not want to embarrass the officiating Minister. May I know whether the members of this enquiry committee belonged to the same department?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Of course the Chief Engineer was a member of the Committee and there was also an officer of the Ministry of Health on the Committee.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: What are the results of this enquiry instituted into this whole affair?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The report of the enquiry committee has been received and the Ministry is scrutinising it.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it a fact that after the collapse of these hutments the contract for the erection of further hutments has been given to the same contractor?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I require notice of that.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: What is the number of the hutments that had collapsed altogether?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Out of 2,452 houses constructed, 56 were damaged during the rains.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How much loss was involved to the Government on account of this?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Practically no loss, because most of the loss has been recovered from the contractors. The Government will have to bear a loss of Rs. 9,000 which will be met out of the maintenance charges.

SUBSIDIARY FOOD PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

*109. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) when the Subsidiary Food Production Committee was formed;

(b) the names of the members on the Committee;

(c) whether there is any non-official member in the Committee; and

(d) how much progress the Committee has made so far?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The 6th of May, 1949.

(b) The Committee consists of a Chairman (Minister for Food and Agriculture), a Vice-Chairman (Shri Shri Ram) and two members (Shri S. V. Ramamurti and the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Food, *ex-officio*).

(c) There are two non-official members (i) Shri Shri Ram and (ii) Shri S. V. Ramamurti.

(d) A note detailing the progress made by the Committee up to the end of October, 1949, is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 3.)

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: How many special officers have been appointed by this Committee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not think there are many officers but if the Honourable Member wants to know the exact number I shall be able to give it.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How much money has been set apart and how much has been spent towards this Subsidiary Food Production Committee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Rs. 10 lakhs was set apart and we have so far spent about three lakhs.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How much addition has it meant to the food production of the country?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As the House knows this is a programme which has been started only recently. We are proceeding on two lines: first, to increase the production of subsidiary foods through a larger acreage under subsidiary foods in different parts of the country and secondly, introducing the flour of sweet potatoes and groundnuts in the rations issued. These things will take time. At present about 20,000 acres have been put under sweet potatoes and bananas. In the sphere of rationing we have issued out about 1,000 maunds of sweet potato flour and 1,000 maunds of groundnut flour. We are watching the public reaction to this and also as seeing how far we can maintain the flour in a healthy condition for human consumption.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How much additional quantity of subsidiary food does this Committee expect to be able to place at the disposal of the Government during this year?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is not possible to give any figure in this manner. As I said we are experimenting with the initial plans. We are trying to see how long we can keep the rationed sweet potato flour before it deteriorates, how long it can be kept in healthy condition when mixed with wheat flour. All these experiments would take some time. It is impossible to forecast what would be the quantity of flour which will be made available to the public.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether any committee has been constituted to advise with regard to the matters connected with the reclamation of waste land and allied subjects, as indicated in the reply of the Honourable Minister to the point raised by my honourable friend Shrimati Renuka Ray during the budget debate? If so, what has been the work done by that committee?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think that this is the duty of the Subsidiary Food Production Committee. This question is not related to the present one.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: These 20,000 acres which have been put under subsidiary foods, are they new land or they have been released from the land which has already been under cultivation with other food crops?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to give you a reply straight off. These are foods which give a higher yield per acre. Even where a certain area is taken from rice or wheat the net yield of foodstuff by cultivation of subsidiary foods would be much larger.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What exceptional qualifications did these two non-official members possess either as scientists or as agriculturists or as businessmen dealing in food crops?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They are members because they were greatly interested in these matters and had certain knowledge of the subject.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it as consumers?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know whether the function of the committee is operational in encouragement of the cultivation of food crops or only scientific research?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The function of the Committee is to organise cultivation through the provincial governments.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is there any agriculturist on this committee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No agriculturist is needed because we have plenty of agricultural experts. These are people who will organise, not themselves cultivate.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has this Subsidiary Food Production Committee resulted in the production of many subsidiary officers as well?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not think we have got more than two or three officers working under this Committee.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know if tuber cultivation is being experimented on and if so what is the result?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Sweet potatoes and tapioca are tubers. There has been no large scale experiment in regard to tapioca.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Are the Government satisfied with the results obtained and the success achieved in spoiling the elementary basic foods?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a matter of opinion.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: When this Committee was appointed was any plan made out as to what will be the actual extra food available?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It will depend on the results achieved. How can a paper plan tell you as to what will be the extent of cultivation and production?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the nutritive value of these subsidiary foods been made the subject of research?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is well known that these are nutritious foods.

APPOINTMENT OF CATERING CONTRACTORS

*110. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Railway Advisory Board to appoint local professional men as catering contractors in small stations have been given effect to,

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative (i) in how many stations and (ii) on which Railways; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, by what time Government propose to implement them?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) The recommendations are being given effect to.

(b) A statement giving the information desired is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 4.)

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Is it a fact that the D.G. Food, B.N. Railway invited tenders for catering tea, sweets, etc. in small stations on the B.N. Railway from Howrah to Puri by advertisements appearing in local English and Bengali newspapers on 5th February last?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: It is obviously impossible for me to reply to a specific question like that without proper notice.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Is it a fact that Ishardas Ballabdas were several times fined and warned and they still continue to be contractors?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a question relating to an individual contractor.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: On what date was the recommendation made by the Central Advisory Council?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The recommendation was made by the Central Advisory Council for Railways at their meeting held on the 5th February 1949.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is it a fact that the contractor who held a large contract over a large area still continues to hold it?

Mr. Speaker: That is the same question coming in a different form.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: I want to know whether that recommendation has been actually given effect to.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I am placing on the table a statement showing that 113 contracts have been given to local contractors in accordance with the recommendation of the Central Advisory Council.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are these contractors allowed to have sub-contractors under them?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The terms of the contract prohibit the subletting of contracts.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Is it not a fact that the standard of catering and the quality of food are steadily deteriorating?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I do not think so. To the extent that the quality of the basic food stuffs have deteriorated to that extent the catering also has to deteriorate.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

CLASSIFICATION OF RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS

*111. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new classification of compartments introduced on the Railways in January 1949 has been productive of greater income;

(b) if so, the income derived from passenger fares from January, 1949 up till 30th September 1949, and the receipt for the corresponding period during the years 1947 and 1948;

(c) whether it is a fact that the new classification has entailed considerable discomfort to railway passengers; and

(d) whether Government are considering any revision of the classification, and if so, on what lines?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The re-classification was in respect of the Upper classes only and this has not been productive of greater income.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have received complaints to this effect.

(d) A special class between Class II and Class I with amenities very nearly same as those provided for the old Second Class is being introduced from tomorrow. The fare for this class which is designated 'Class II Special' will, however, be 14 pies per mile instead of 16 pies per mile charged for the old Second Class.

SUGAR SHORTAGE

*112. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what steps Government have taken to fight the sudden scarcity of sugar created in the country?

(b) Do Government intend to import sugar to fight this shortage?

(c) If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the answer given in reply to question No. 101 part (c).

(b) No.

(c) The main reason is the difficult foreign exchange position.

TARGET DATE OF FOOD IMPORTS

*113. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the target date of 1951 for stopping all food imports has been changed to 1950?

(b) What intensive measures have been adopted by Government to make possible this change in schedule?

(c) Do the Government of India propose to build up a large food reserve by that date so as to meet any unexpected shortage of food in India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) No.

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

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING

*114. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the total amount of land area under co-operative farming and the steps that are being taken to encourage co-operative farming in India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The total area under Co-operative Farming in various Provinces and States and Unions of States (excluding Patiala and East Punjab States Union and Travancore and Cochin States Union for which information is not available) was 40,065 acres during 1948-49.

The steps taken to encourage Co-operative Farming are assignment of Government land for Co-operative Colonization, free grants and subsidies, loans for purchase of manure, implements, bullocks, etc.; free services of agricultural and Co-operative staff, and rebate or remission of land revenue assessment for the first few years.

LAND FOR FOOD OR FODDER CROPS

***115. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the advisability of fixing a minimum area of land in each village where only food or fodder crops must be grown and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The suggestion is not practicable as the soil in certain villages may be more suitable for other crops.

CATTLE SLAUGHTER

***116. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cows, heifers, calves, bulls and bullocks, slaughtered in the years 1947-48 and 1948-49 in the Municipal Slaughter Houses, and the number killed in private butcher houses during the same years; and

(b) how many of the slaughtered animals were certified by the Veterinary Doctors as unfit for work, breeding or milk yield purposes, and how many non-officials were associated with the Veterinary Doctors to examine the utility or otherwise of the cattle killed?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the Provincial Governments, Local Administrations, States and States Unions and will be furnished to the House in due course.

FOODSTUFFS SUPPLIED ON THE RAILWAYS

***117. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases reported to Railway authorities regarding adulteration of foodstuffs supplied on the Railways during the financial year 1948-49;

(b) the number of such cases that are being followed up by instituting prosecution proceedings; and

(c) the number of prosecutions already made?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) The number of reported cases of adulteration of food supplied in Railway premises over the Indian Government Railways during 1948-49 was fifty-eight.

(b) Prosecutions have been instituted in twenty-five cases.

(c) Of the twenty-five cases in which proceedings have been instituted, convictions have been obtained in thirteen; the others are pending.

NEW RAILWAY LINES

***118. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of additional railway lines that are proposed to be opened in the financial year 1949-50?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The following additional lines of railway have already been opened in the year 1949-50:

(i) Dahinsara-Malia on the Saurashtra Railway.

(ii) Himayatnagar-Dhanora section of Mudkhed-Adilabad Branch on the N.S. Railway.

(iii) Kanore-Bari Sadri section of Mavli Jn-Bari Sadri Branch on the Rajasthan Railway.

The following lines are expected to be opened within the current financial year:

(i) Assam Rail Link, (ii) Khirsadoh-Rawanwara N.G. section on the B.N. Railway, and (iii) Kanalus-Gop Branch on the Saurashtra Railway.

PRICES OF SUGAR

***119. Shri O. V. Alagesan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the extent of the rise in price of sugar above that fixed by Government before stocks were frozen?

(b) What is the estimated loss to consumers on account of the rise in price of sugar?

(c) What steps have Government taken to prevent such rise in price of sugar in future?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The rise in price has varied from place to place. The rise at Hapur on 31st August 1949 was Rs. 9 per maund above that fixed by Government when the stocks were frozen.

(b) It is not practicable to estimate this as the quantity of sugar purchased and the prices have varied from place to place.

(c) The question of steps to prevent steep rises in prices in future is under consideration.

SUGAR FOR PROVINCES AND STATES

***120. Shri O. V. Alagesan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what are the quantities of sugar that have been allotted to the various Provinces and States after sugar stocks were frozen?

(b) What is the basis on which these allotments are made?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A statement showing allocations of sugar made out of frozen stocks, is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 5.)

(b) The allotment of sugar to various Provinces/States Unions/States out of the frozen stocks was made after consideration of the following factors generally:

(i) Sugar already received from U.P. and Bihar factories from 1st December, 1948 to middle of August, 1949 by each area.

(ii) Total and urban population of each area.

(iii) Per capita consumption of sugar in each area during the Control year 1945-46.

(iv) The average off-take of each area per month from December, 1948 to June, 1949 during which period the sugar situation was more or less normal.

(v) Any special circumstances existing in any particular area.

FROZEN STOCKS OF SUGAR

*121. **Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total stocks of sugar frozen by Government in the month of September, in different provinces;

(b) the individual rationed quota and the controlled price of sugar in different provinces; and

(c) the estimated shortage of sugar for six months from October 1949?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A statement showing the stocks frozen in different provinces and allotments made to them and other areas is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 5.)

(b) A statement showing the quantity issued per person or family by different provinces and states is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 6.) Information in regard to prices charged is being collected and will be submitted as soon as received.

(c) It is difficult to give estimates of the supply and demand position for the period mentioned until production for the next season has appreciably advanced.

LOCATION OF FEDERAL COURT

*122. **Shri O. V. Alagesan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether any decision has been taken regarding the location of the Federal Court?

(b) If so, what is the decision?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) and (b). Government have decided that the Federal Court should be located in Delhi. Due to financial stringency, it is not possible to construct a new building for the purpose at present. The question whether the Court should continue in the Council House for the interim period or be shifted to some premises in Delhi is still under consideration.

TUBE-WELLS FOR IRRIGATION

*123. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the total number of tube-wells the Government of India proposed to bore during the financial year 1949-50?

(b) In which of the provinces were these wells to be bored?

(c) How many of these wells have already been bored and are ready for irrigating land?

(d) Did Government execute the work through their own men and machinery or through some private agency?

(e) If through private agency, what was the agency employed?

(f) What has been the expenditure on each well bored and what will be the additional yield from each acre of land irrigated by such a well?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Government of India did not propose to construct any tube-wells themselves during the year 1949-50. The few wells dug were as part of training and exploration and not part of any construction programme which is a Provincial responsibility. But a programme for the construction of 4,000 tube-wells and 500 feeder-wells

during a period of three years by the Provinces of E.P., U.P. and Bihar has been under consideration. No specific target has yet been fixed for the financial year 1949-50, but the concerned Provinces have been asked for a target on the basis of the machinery available with them. It will be laid on the table of the House as soon as it is received.

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

INSURANCE OF CATTLE AND CROPS

*124. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what exploratory or experimental measures the Government of India have undertaken to insure cattle and crops in India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: A research pilot Scheme for crop and cattle insurance, to be put into operation in selected areas, is being worked out on the basis of the reports of the Special Officer appointed for this purpose and will be considered in consultation with the Provinces and States.

DISEASE-FREE SEEDS*

*125. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state if any researches have been carried out under Government auspices to obtain disease-free seeds of wheat and paddy?

(b) If so, what have been the results?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 7.)

AGRICULTURAL QUOTA OF IRON AND CEMENT

*126. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what quota of iron and cement is made available each quarter to the different provinces for agricultural purposes?

(b) Is the quota constant or variable from quarter to quarter?

(c) How do the Government of India ascertain whether or not the agricultural quota of iron and cement is used for the purpose for which it is intended?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) *Iron and Steel.*—The quota of Iron and Steel for agricultural purposes has been separated from the general quota allocated to the Provinces and the States with effect from quarter II (April to June) 1949. Quota-wise allocations from period II of 1949 to period I of 1950 are as follows:

Quarter II of 1949—21867.5 tons.

Quarter III of 1949—24370 tons.

Quarter IV of 1949—24370 plus an *ad hoc* allocation of 15,000 tons.

Quarter I of 1950—34880 tons.

In addition, the Provincial Governments have agreed to utilize 50 per cent. of their general scrap allocation of approximately 16,600 tons per quarter for agricultural purposes.

Cement.—The quota of cement for agricultural purposes has been separated from the general quota allocated to the Provinces and the States with effect from quarter IV (October-December) 1949. The total quantity allocated for this period for agricultural purposes was 75,000 tons. Two statements showing the Province-wise break up of the iron and steel and cement allocated for agricultural purposes are laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 8.)

(b) Quotas vary from quarter to quarter depending on the total availability and the demand.

(c) As the Government of India do not have an inspection agency functioning inside the Provinces and States, the responsibility of safeguarding against misuse of the quotas has been laid on the Provincial and State Governments concerned. Their attention has been invited to the necessity for introducing proper system of distribution, and most of the major Provinces and States have taken action. A note on the distribution arrangements prevalent in the Provinces is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 9.)

PRICE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

***127. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before Government to make certain legislation for ensuring minimum fair-price of agricultural products such as wheat, paddy, cotton and jute?

(b) If so, when do Government propose to come forward with the said legislation before this House?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Minimum prices for raw cotton and sugarcane have already been fixed. In the case of foodgrains also, procurement prices have been fixed by the various Provinces and State Governments in consultation with the Government of India.

(b) There is, for the time being, no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

NIGHT AIR MAIL SERVICE

***128. Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that representations have been received by Government from air lines authorities against the resumption of night air mail service?

(b) What is the nature of the representation?

(c) Why has it been considered necessary by Government to restart the night air mail service?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) and (b). The air transport companies had represented that without a guarantee from Government of a minimum revenue per mile flown, the night air mail service would result in heavy losses to the operator and would deprive the day services of a substantial load of mail and revenue. The fare of 12½ per cent. over the first class railway fare would be uneconomic and, besides the wastage of fuel and equipment in its operation, there would be no appreciable saving of time in the delivery of letters.

(c) The night air mail services enable material saving in the time necessary for transport of mails and meet the proved requirements for air transport of persons who cannot afford the higher rates of air travel by day.

GROW MORE FOOD

***129. Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what are the latest plans that have been drawn up to produce more food?

(b) How do Government propose to implement them?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). The latest food production plans of the Government of India consist of a series of short-term Grow-More-Food Schemes both of permanent and recurring nature. The types of such schemes which are taken up by the Provincial and State Governments, and financed by the Government of India are of the following categories:

I. *Permanent Schemes.*—(i) Land improvement schemes including land reclamation, and (ii) Minor irrigation schemes like construction of wells, tanks, channels, small dams, lift irrigation.

II. *Recurring Schemes.*—(i) Distribution of improved seeds, (ii) Distribution of chemical fertilisers, (iii) Distribution of manures like oil cake, compost, green manure, and (iv) Plant protection schemes and other schemes of miscellaneous nature designed to increase food production.

D.T.S. STRIKE

***130. Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether all the workers of the Delhi Transport Service who went on strike in August 1949 have been reinstated?

(b) What are the major demands of the workers and what action have Government taken to meet their demands?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) No. One hundred and forty-one strikers have not so far been re-employed. Their re-employment will be considered as and when vacancies arise.

(b) The major demands of the workers are:

- (i) recognition of the Delhi Transport Service Labour Union; (ii) grant of annual increment and bonus; (iii) payment of house rent and compensatory allowance to clerical and supervisory (traffic) staff; (iv) running allowance to the line staff; (v) supply of uniforms to certain categories of staff; (vi) application of Central Government servants leave rules to Delhi Transport Service employees; (vii) provision of medical facilities and arrangements for residential quarters; (viii) extension of facilities of provident fund to all the staff; and (ix) abolition of 'candidate' system and system of keeping unpaid apprentices in the workshops.

Demands relating to the provision of medical facilities, dearness allowance and abolition of candidate system have already been met. Facilities of the Provident Fund have already been extended to the staff taken over from G. N. I. T. The rest of the demands are under active consideration.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

***131. Shri Arun Chandra Guha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Posts and Telegraphs Department has been running at any profit;

(b) if so, how the profit is disposed of;

(c) whether there is any accumulated surplus fund; and

(d) if so, how it is kept and how it is going to be spent?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The net profit has been shared equally in 1948-49 and 1949-50 between General Revenues and the P. & T. Department. Previously the ratio was different.

(c) The accumulated surplus till the end of 1948-49 amounted to 9.64 crores, and as the finances of the Deptt. form part of the general finances of Government of India, the accumulated surplus remains merged in the general balances, and is not kept in any separate fund. A separate *proforma* account is, however, maintained, and in the interest which the Department has to pay to the general revenues on account of its capital at charge, the Department get a rebate, for the amount of accumulated surplus.

(d) The accumulated surplus should normally be available for improvement of services after providing for a reserve to meet possible losses in the future. But for the current year and probably for sometime to come, this is likely to be practicable only partially, taking into account Government's financial position as a whole.

EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES

*132. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the Extra Departmental Sub—and Branch Postmasters are entrusted with the duties that are performed by the Departmental Sub—and Branch Postmasters?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do they get the same or proportionate pay and allowances based on the actual hours of duty performed by them?

(c) Is it a fact that there are about twenty lakhs of E. D. employees serving the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(d) Is it a fact that these employees have asked for recognition of their unions by Government?

(e) If so, has the recognition been given?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Only such of them as are most elementary.

(b) Their pay and allowances are considered commensurate with the work performed and the hours of duty put in by them.

(c) No. There are only about 25,000 E.D. employees serving the Department.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

PLANT AT CHITTARANJAN

*133. { **Sjt. Kuladhar Ohaliha:**
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what progress has been made in the scheme to start a plant at Chittaranjan for turning out railway engines locally?

(b) Has the plant begun working and if not, when will it begin to work?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Out of 7 main units comprising the Workshops, 2, viz., the Light Machine Shop and the Pattern Shop have been erected and work on the remaining 5 shops is well in hand. In the Colony, 1100 houses out of 5,000 have been completed and the construction of another 1,700 is in progress. Work on other ancillary works like roads, water supply and sanitary arrangements is also advancing satisfactorily.

(b) The plant has not yet gone into actual production, which is anticipated to commence during 1950.

ALL-UP POSTAL SCHEME

*134. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state what was the total average monthly income from the Air surcharge during the period of one year preceding the introduction of All-up Postal Scheme?

(b) What was the average monthly expenditure during the preceding one year on the Air Mail and what would be the expenditure if the same mail was carried otherwise than by Air?

(c) What is the average monthly increased income on all mail resulting from the increased postal rates since the introduction of the All-up Postal Scheme?

(d) What is the average monthly extra expenditure incurred due to the All-up Postal Scheme since its introduction?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): Statistics in such detail as asked for by the Honourable Member are not maintained by the Posts and Telegraphs Department. On sample statistics, however, the approximate figures will be as follows.

(a) Rs. 1,39,000/- per month

(b) Rs. 98,000/- per month.

There would be no extra expenditure if the mails were carried by rail.

(c) Rs. 30,90,000/- per month.

(d) Rs. 3,30,000/- per month.

RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE

*135. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- the functions performed by Railway Clearing Accounts Office;
- the number of officers and ministerial and inferior staff employed there;
- the expenses annually incurred on the office; and
- whether there is any scheme for reducing the expenses?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The Functions of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office are as stated below:

(i) Utilize the agency of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office for purpose of check of documents relating to Inter-Railway traffic (Assam, E.I., E.P., B.B. & C.I. and G.I.P. Railways), technically known as 'Foreign traffic' and the apportionment of the earnings between the Railways concerned.

(ii) Similarly, G.I.P. and Assam Railways utilize this organization for the check of documents relating to local traffic originating and terminating at stations on their systems and for the valuation and billing work relating to Military and Civil credit notes.

(iii) Compilation of initial statistical data for the five railways mentioned in (i) above relating to all traffic dealt with in the Clearing Accounts Office.

(iv) Compilation of zonal trade statistics for the Director-General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.

(b) Gazetted Officers 9.

Class III Staff 1,801.

Class IV Staff 235.

(c) The expenses incurred for the year 1948-49 were Rs. 34.05 lakhs, the average annual expenditure for the quinquennium ending 1948-49 having been about Rs. 30.50 lakhs.

(d) In connection with the integration of the railway system, the future of the organization will come under review.

AIR COMPANIES IN INDIA

***136. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Air Companies operating in India and their routes;

(b) the names of the Air Companies, which have ceased to operate since the 15th August, 1947;

(c) which of the existing Companies are working on a profitable basis; and

(d) what steps, if any, Government propose to take to stabilise the position of these Companies?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) I lay on the Table a statement giving the required information. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 10.)

(b) Jupiter Airways Limited and Ambica Airlines Limited.

(c) According to the latest available balance sheets of the companies, four companies, namely, Air India Limited, Air Services of India Limited, Airways India Limited and Indian Overseas Airlines, have been operating on profitable basis.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to Prof. K. T. Shah's Starred Question No. 1392 on the 25th March 1949. The maximum all-up weight of the Dakota has since been increased by about 25 per cent. to enable the companies to take in more pay load and provision has been made for a system of progressive Certificates of Airworthiness which saves an aircraft from being grounded for long periods. Further measures to improve the position of the air transport companies are constantly under review.

POST CARDS AND ENVELOPES IN HYDERABAD STATE

***137. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates of post cards and envelopes intended for internal traffic within the Hyderabad State are different from those in force in the rest of the country;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to bring the existing rates on level with those obtaining in India;

(c) whether there are any other states in India in which postal unity is not observed in the matter of rates of post cards, envelopes, stamps, etc.; and

(d) if so, what their names are?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Yes.

(d) Rajkot and Junagad (merged in the United State of Saurashtra),

Kisengarh, Udaipur and Jaipur (merged in the Rajasthan Union).

Travancore and Cochin (Travancore and Cochin Union).

POST CARDS AND ENVELOPES

***138. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quality of paper used in the making of inland post cards and envelopes has deteriorated in recent years; and

(b) if so, whether there is any possibility of better quality paper being used for this purpose in the near future?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS POCKET GUIDE

***139. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that no recent edition of Posts and Telegraphs Pocket Guide is available; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of bringing out a new edition of the same at an early date, and publishing it at regular intervals in future?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Yes; the latest edition is dated July, 1948.

(b) The next edition dated December, 1949 will soon go into print.

STAMP BOOKLETS

***140. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to revive the previous practice of the Posts and Telegraphs Department of supplying stamp booklets containing a dozen or two stamps of a few main denominations in a handy form for the convenience of the public; and

(b) if so, when this proposal is likely to materialise?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) No, not at present while the financial stringency lasts.

(b) Does not arise.

IMPORT OF FOODSTUFFS

***141. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of (i) rice, (ii) wheat, (iii) maize and (iv) barley, imported from foreign countries during the current year and the price paid or to be paid for the same;

(b) whether the import position during the current year shows a distinct improvement as compared to the previous year, i.e., whether there will be lesser imports than last year; and

(c) the names of countries to which payment was made for these commodities at the highest rates and the rates so paid?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The following quantities of rice, wheat, maize and barley have been imported up to end of October 1949:

(i) Rice	749,000 tons
(ii) Wheat and Flour	1,776,900 tons
(iii) Maize	133,900 tons
(iv) Barley	183,200 tons

(b) Total imports in 1950 are expected to be very much smaller than in 1949.

(c) The grains mentioned in reply to part (a) above have been imported from under-noted countries:

Rice from Italy, Wheat from U.S.S.R., Maize from Yugoslavia and Barley from Iraq.

It would not be in the public interest to publish the prices paid to the different countries.

NEW TELEGRAPH LINE

***142. Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state what progress has been made in regard to the opening of a telegraph line between Jaipur Post Office and Binjharpur Post Office (District Cuttack), Orissa?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): The project is under consideration and if found remunerative, it will be executed when the financial position of the Government of India warrants it. If found unremunerative, a guarantee will be asked for.

RAMBAGH POST OFFICE, CUTTACK

***143. Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in regard to the construction of building of the Rambagh Post Office, in District Cuttack;

(b) if the construction work has not yet been started, when Government propose to do it?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Plans for the building have been prepared by the Central Public Works Department who are now working out the detailed estimates.

(b) The construction of the building is likely to be taken in hand in 1950-51.

REVENUE FROM RAILWAYS

***144. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the income from passenger traffic for each of the Classes I, II, Inter and III for the year 1948 and Classes I, II, and III for the year 1949 month by month, from January to October; and

(b) the revenue derived from goods traffic during the same period?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 11.)

IMPORTED FOOD GRAINS (PRICE)

***145. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the rate in rupees per maund at Indian ports of the foodstuffs, namely, wheat, rice, milo and wheatflour imported during the years 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50;

(b) the rate at which wheat would be imported into India in terms of rupees per maund at Indian ports during the year 1950, 1951, and 1952 under the Wheat Agreement;

(c) the percentage of wastage and dust allowed;

(d) the percentage of cost incurred in arranging for internal distribution;

(e) the rates at which wheat and other cereals were obtainable by Government in India itself during the years mentioned in part (a) above; and

(f) the amount of subsidy given by Government during each of the above-mentioned periods?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). Three statements giving the necessary information are laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 12.)

(d) No uniform percentage of cost can be worked out as transport charges vary considerably according to the distance between ports and the receiving areas and the incidental expenditure including cost of storage and internal distribution also differ from province to province.

(e) A statement showing the procurement prices is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 13.)

(f) 1947-48 Rs. 17.12 crores. 1948-49 Rs. 26.50 crores (provisional). 1949-50 Rs. 25.00 crores (estimated).

REVENUE FROM POST CARDS, ENVELOPES, ETC.

***146. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the income derived from post cards, envelopes, air letters and registered letters and parcels for each of the months from April to October in the years 1948 and 1949;

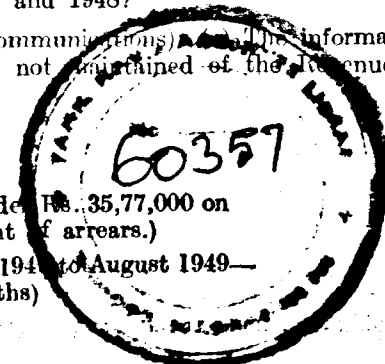
(b) the payment made to the Air Services carrying air mails in the years 1946, 1947, 1948, and 1949; and

(c) how the profit and loss for the months of April to October 1949 on each of the items, such as post cards, envelopes and air mail letters compare with those for the same months in the years 1947 and 1948?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): The information is not available as separate accounts are not maintained of the revenue derived from each class of article.

(b) 1946-47.	Rs. 23,45,000	
1947-48.	Rs. 22,17,000	
1948-49.	Rs. 65,30,000	(include Rs. 35,77,000 on account of arrears.)
1949-50.	Rs. 29,17,000	(April 1949 to August 1949—5 months)

(c) The information is not available.



PAKISTAN RICE IN KHASI AND JAINTIA

*147. **Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet in the Province of Eastern Pakistan is supplying rice to the people of Khasi and Jaintia living on the border of Eastern Pakistan and if so, under what terms and conditions?

(b) Why are the Government of India not in a position to give these people the required quantity of rice?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Full information has been called for from the Government of Assam and will be supplied as soon as received.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENTS (ECONOMY DRIVE)

*148. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any economy drive has been introduced in the Railway Departments, and if so, how this would affect—

- (i) the staff of Class III & IV—both permanent and temporary,
- (ii) the various sanctioned programmes—both Capital and Revenue—being worked through on different Railways,
- (iii) the programmes for providing greater facilities and amenities to Class III passengers,
- (iv) the new open line programmes connected with the introduction and expansion of strategic and commercial lines; and
- (v) the Rail-Road Co-ordination Scheme—both in the provinces and Centrally Administered areas?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Yes, an economy drive has been launched on the Railways:

(i) Permanent staff in classes III and IV will not be affected by the economy measures adopted. It is proposed, in respect of temporary staff, to retain as many as possible in service by the suspension of recruitment and the adjustment of existing staff between different departments. If thereafter there is a surplus, staff engaged after 15-9-1945 will be affected to the extent necessary, beginning with those having the least period of service.

(ii) The Works Programmes—both Capital and Revenue—have been curtailed, but care has been taken in the review to exempt from cut items which relate to the maintenance of efficiency in operation. The current Capital programme of Rs. 64 crores has been reduced by Rs. 6.75 crores. Similarly, the revenue programme of Rs. 7.65 crores has been reduced by Rs. 1.25 crores.

(iii) The present economy drive will not affect the programme for passenger amenities and steps have been taken to utilise the allotment in full. In fact, provision has been proposed for doubling the allocation to Rs. 3 crores in 1950-51.

(iv) So far as strategic lines are concerned, the programme—both Capital and Revenue—will not be affected and in fact, the Assam Rail Link is being accelerated. In regard to non-strategic lines, the schemes have been reviewed and only those projects which are in the national interest will be taken up.

(v) The schemes for such co-ordination in most cases are only in their initial stages and have not progressed to the extent estimated. The reduction proposed will not, therefore, affect the accepted programmes and the allotment of Rs. 40 lakhs will meet the full requirements of the current year.

FAMINE CONDITIONS

*149. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what parts of India, if any, are at present famine stricken and what steps are being taken to ensure the supply of requisite quantities of food grains and fodder in such areas?

(b) What steps have been taken to relieve the famine conditions in Ajmer-Merwara, and have any arrangements been made for ensuring the supply of foodgrains, fodder and cotton seeds to that area? If so, from where and in what quantities?

(c) What quantity of loan, and in what form do Government intend to advance by way of Taccavi to relieve the suffering peasantry?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). Owing to failure of rains, there has been partial failure of crops in parts of Ajmer-Merwara and Jodhpur Division of the Rajasthan Union. The Government of India have made special allocations of food grains for distribution in both of these areas and will continue to make further allocations as required. The special allocations made so far are 1,000 tons of grain, 2,300 tons of barley and 2,000 tons of Bajra for Ajmer-Merwara, and 20,000 tons of food-grains for Rajasthan to meet the deficit estimated for two months i.e., November and December. 13,000 tons against this, have already moved into Rajasthan and further supplies will follow. As regards requirements of fodder arrangements for importing fodder are being made on the same lines as last year.

(c) A sum of Rs. 2,30,000 has been sanctioned for being advanced to cultivators as Taccavi loans.

PHADKA, A PLANT PEST (DAMAGE TO KHARIF CROPS)

*150. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Phadka, a Plant Pest has caused vast damage to the Kharif crops in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara?

(b) If so, what steps were taken to control this evil during the Kharif crop, and how far have such control measures proved successful?

(c) What amount was provided in the budget for 1949-50 for fighting this pest, and how much money has actually been spent during this year?

(d) Were the measures to control this evil taken all over the Province, or in a particular number of selected villages?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) Control measures were taken to deal with the situation. These consisted mostly of dusting the affected areas with insecticides and for this purpose the Province was provided with 118 tons of insecticides and 200 dusting machines. In order to save the largest possible amount of crops, special attention was given to areas where the crop were better. The control measures covered about 27,600 acres and resulted in a saving of about 138,000 maunds of grains and 1,10,000 cart loads of fodder.

(c) A total provision of Rs. 1,83,000 was made in the year 1949-50 budget for the control of this pest. The amount which has been spent will probably be slightly in excess of this figure.

(d) Priority for control work was, given to irrigated fields because of much heavier and luxuriant crops being in danger.

MICA MINING AND MICA MARKET

*151. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government intend to start imparting technical training in Mica Mining? If so, at which place and by which date? If not, why not?

(b) What is the total production of Mica in India in different Provinces, States and Unions of States, and what quantity is exported every year since 1947-48?

(c) What quantity of Mica is lying accumulated for export at Calcutta and various other places, and what are the reasons for such accumulation?

(d) Do Government consider the advisability of fixing a minimum price for each grade and quality of Mica? If not, why not?

(e) What steps, if any, have Government taken so far or propose to take in future to improve our Mica market in America and other foreign countries?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) The Mica Enquiry Committee recommended the establishment of Mica Mining classes to train Managers for mica mines. The recommendation is under consideration but no decision has been reached yet as to the location of the classes, or the date by which they should be opened.

(b) The production figures for mica in India are extremely unreliable. In any case, production figures Province-wise or State-wise are not available, though it is known that Bihar produces, roughly, two-thirds of the total production, while the remainder is divided between Madras and Rajputana. As there is practically no indigenous consumption, the size of the industry is best reflected in the export figures, which are 2.6 lacs cwts. for 1947-48, 3.4 lacs cwts. for 1948-49, and 0.7 lacs cwts. for the quarter April-June 1949.

(c) Government of India have no information.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

(e) The Mica Enquiry Committee recommended the establishment of a Mica Marketing Control Board for marketing mica. The recommendation is still under consideration, as its implementation depends upon the successful establishment of international standards in respect of the various grades and classes of mica.

SOCIAL GUIDES ON THE RAILWAYS

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

(a) how many Social Guides have been appointed upto now on each of the various Railways in India;

(b) the task or duties allotted to them; and

(c) whether the posts of Social Guides are permanent or temporary?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) A statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, annexure No. 14.)

(b) The duties of Social Guides are to render social service to passengers, particularly those travelling in Class III and be generally helpful to them in obtaining tickets and booking of luggage, finding accommodation, giving information required on the journey, making available the services of luggage

porters, station vendors, watermen, and protecting them from any possible harassments, etc., etc.

(c) The posts are temporary.

FISHING

*153. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase the output of coastal fishing;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to transport fish from sea coast to inland regions; and

(c) whether Government are giving any facilities to the fishermen for curing fish and if so, what are the facilities thus given?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes. Government have given financial assistance to the maritime provinces of Madras, Bombay, West Bengal and Travancore for improving coastal fishing by the use of power-propelled vessels. Government have also established a Deep Sea pilot fishing station at Bombay.

(b) Government have afforded facilities for rail and road transport specially in Madras, Travancore and Orissa.

(c) Yes. Facilities are provided for curing fish under hygienic conditions and proper supervision in the fish curing yards established in the main fishing centres by the Governments of Orissa, Madras, Bombay, Travancore and Cochin.

The Government of India have given financial assistance to effect improvements in the fish curing yards in Bombay, and for the erection of a model fish curing yard in Travancore.

The facilities provided are as follows: (i) enclosed space for the processing of fish, (ii) bringing tubs and cement platforms, (iii) supplies of salt, (iv) platforms or open space for drying of fish, (v) godowns for storage of cured fish, (vi) water for washing of fish and fresh-water for drinking, and (vii) technical advice and supervision.

NEW RAILWAY LINES (HYDERABAD)

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

(a) whether the possibility of constructing a railway line between Ongole and Cumbum, and between Nellore and Cuddapah was ever studied by the railway authorities, and if so when, and how much was it expected to cost at that time; and

(b) whether the Nizam's Government were contemplating to construct a railway line from Hyderabad to Buster State and if so, whether the Railway Board propose to take up that project with or without contribution from Hyderabad Government?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The Nizam's Government did contemplate laying a Railway line from Ramgundam on their Railway to Bailadilla in Bastar State. This project will be considered in due course, by the Central Board of Transport along with other rail projects to serve Kankar and Bastar States.

MADRAS-DELHI MAIL TRAIN

*155. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have again examined the possibility of running a fast mail train between Madras and Delhi in addition to the Grand Trunk Express and if so, when and how soon do they expect to be able to run it?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: No. The feasibility of introduction of such a train can be considered only when the power and coaching stock position further improves sufficiently.

IRRIGATION PROJECT

*156. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) what irrigation and flood control projects are affected by the Economy Drive;

(b) what projects are being developed during this year and next year; and

(c) whether the proposed Conference of Chief Engineers to settle the priorities for these projects is likely to materialise?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) The Economy Drive may affect all such projects, including the Damodar, the Bhakra-Nangal and Hirakud Dam Projects.

(b) The Central Government are mainly concerned with the Damodar and the Hirakud Dam Projects. The Central Water-Power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission has also undertaken construction of the Kakrapara Weir at the expense of the Bombay Government. In addition, Central Waterpower Irrigation and Navigation Commission has in hand preliminary investigations on the Kosi, Nerbada, Tapi etc. Amongst major schemes taken up by Provincial Governments may be mentioned the Tungabhadra Project, Machkund, Sarda Power House, Pipri Dam, Mor Project and Ghataprabha Valley Project in Bombay. There are also some other projects being developed by Provincial Governments of which details are not readily available.

(c) The question of priorities for river valley projects is constantly under consideration. But it is not proposed to hold any conference at this stage, when sufficient financial and material resources are not available to undertake new schemes.

TRACTORS FOR P.E.P.S.U.

*157. **Kaka Bhagwant Roy:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state how many tractors from the Central Tractors Organisation have been allocated to P.E.P.S.U.?

(b) What is the number already sent?

(c) When will the remaining tractors be sent?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). No reclamation unit of the Central Tractor Organisation has been allocated to P.E.P.S.U. However, at the request of the Union Government this Ministry undertook the supply of twelve tractors on payment basis. Out of these six tractors have already been supplied and the balance are expected to be received from U.S.A. during the first quarter of 1950.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

*158. **Kaka Bhagwant Roy:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state how much subsidy under "Grow More Food" Campaign has been allocated to PEPSU for sinking tubewells during the current year?

(b) What part of it has already been paid?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Government of India have sanctioned to the P.E.P.S.U. Government a loan of Rs. 2,00,000 for sinking of tube wells in furtherance of the 'Grow More Food' campaign.

(b) The amount mentioned above has been sanctioned by the Government of India and can be drawn by the P.E.P.S.U. Government as the work under the scheme progresses.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

4. **Shri C. Subramaniam:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state what was the total consumption of petroleum and petroleum products during (i) the half year ending 30th September, 1949 and (ii) the preceding two half years?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (i) 1,256,368 Tons.

(ii) Half year ended 31-3-49—1,124,665 tons.

Half year ended 30-9-48—942,822 tons.

NOTE.—Figures of consumption of lubricants and Asphalt are not included in (i) and (ii) above as they are not available.

MOTOR VEHICLES

5. **Shri C. Subramaniam:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state the total number of motor vehicles viz., motor cars, buses and lorries in India as on 16th August 1947 and 1st October 1949?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The total number of vehicles in the Dominion of India on the 16th August, 1947, and 1st October, 1949 viz., motor cars, buses and lorries was 196,463 and 265,348. The details are as follows:

	16-8-1947	1-10-1949
Motor cars	113,290	153,360
Buses	24,349	29,864
Lorries	58,824	82,124
	<u>196,463</u>	<u>265,348</u>

DERAILMENTS AND COMPENSATION

6. { **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:**
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of serious derailments to passenger and mixed trains involving loss of life or serious injury to persons that have occurred during the present year so far;

(b) the causes for such derailments;

(c) the number of deaths caused; and

(d) the number of cases where compensation has been paid and the total amount of compensation paid?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The number of derailments of trains carrying passengers, involving loss of life or serious injury to persons, which occurred on the Indian Government Railways during the present year so far is four.

(b) Three of these derailments were due to the track having been tampered with by some person or persons unknown. The exact cause of the accident could not be determined in the fourth case.

(c) These derailments resulted in the death of 15 persons.

(d) Rs. 688 in four cases of simple injury.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Thursday, 1st December, 1949

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

POWER ALCOHOL

*159. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total quantity of power alcohol manufactured in India from molasses?

(b) Do Government control its production and price and if so in what respect?

(c) What is the price at which this article is sold to the consumer?

(d) Is power alcohol mixed with imported petroleum?*

(e) What steps have Government taken to increase its production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The quantity of power alcohol manufactured in India from molasses during the last three years is:

1947—22,00,000 gallons.

1948—35,40,000 gallons

1949 (upto August)—21,68,864 gallons.

(b) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 1.)

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the proportion of petrol added to power alcohol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: 1:4.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Do we control the prices too?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The price is controlled by the provincial governments. As the Honourable Member is aware we have passed a central Act which we propose to enforce very shortly. The rules thereunder are now under examination.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government ascertained whether petrol itself can be manufactured from out of molasses?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: You mean whether neat power alcohol is used without mixing petrol? Yes, it is being experimented.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Why has production gone down in the third year?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: This figure is only up to August.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it contemplated to turn the foreign alcohol distilleries into power alcohol factories?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In some cases permission has been asked for and we are discussing the matter with the provincial governments concerned. A proposal has come from Bombay.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is there any restriction on the manufacture of power alcohol? Is every sugar factory free to make power alcohol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Actually the only restriction is that they must have the proper units established for producing power alcohol. At present there are 14 such units functioning in India—ten in U.P., one in Bihar, one in Hyderabad and two in the South. In the course of another two months four more units will come into existence.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have the Government stipulated in their agreements with the oil companies that they should not produce more power alcohol than agreed upon?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: On the other hand the oil companies have agreed to set up distribution centres so that power alcohol may be mixed with petrol.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is the sale of power alcohol the monopoly of oil companies only and that private persons are not permitted to sell it?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As we desire to mix power alcohol with petrol obviously we will have to enter into some agreement with the oil companies and this has been done.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is there any excise duty realised from power alcohol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, there is an excise duty.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: What is the percentage of molasses produced which is turned into power alcohol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: At present we are producing about five million gallons of industrial alcohol and the rest is being utilised for producing power alcohol of the quantity that I have mentioned.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if the Honourable Minister has got any plans for increasing the production of power alcohol and whether he has any target for 1950?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, Sir. We have a plan. The total quantity which may be ultimately made available is nearly 20 million gallons but as I have said there is the difficulty of getting the necessary number of power alcohol units and also arranging suitable distribution of molasses amongst such units. That is under examination but I am hoping that in the coming year we will be able to increase production by about 50 per cent.

Shri Upendranath Barman: Could the Honourable Minister give the quantity of molasses that is now being utilised for power alcohol and the quantity that is used for producing liquors?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not got the exact quantity. I have given the total production of the two kinds of alcohol which are now being produced.

Shri Upendranath Barman: What is the total quantity of alcoholic liquor produced out of molasses.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not got the figure for liquor.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What percentage of the total molasses produced in India is used for producing power alcohol, what percentage for other industrial uses and what percentage goes to waste?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are producing 5 million gallons of industrial alcohol and that is all that we need for India's consumption and as to the rest as far as the units can produce we are producing power alcohol.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: My question was that of all the molasses at our disposal what percentage is being used for producing power alcohol, what percentage for other industrial uses and what percentage goes to waste?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is a question which relates to molasses and not to power alcohol.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Why does the Government insist on a particular unit being established before a sugar factory can start manufacturing power alcohol? Why does not Government give freedom to sugar factories to start factories for manufacture of power alcohol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is no ban. If a particular sugar factory desires to produce power alcohol Government will encourage it.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: The Honourable Minister said that the only condition is that they must have a particular unit and capacity but if a factory finds that it is economical for them to start on a particular unit why should the Government interfere?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If it is economical the Government will not interfere.

Shri Syamanandan Sahaya: Is it open to every sugar factory to start a power alcohol plant in their factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, Sir. There is no legal bar.

Shri Syamanandan Sahaya: Is the Government encouraging them to install such power alcohol plants?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If a sugar factory wants to do it, Government will encourage it.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the result of the research on petrol which the Honourable Minister stated is progressing?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is not concerned with this question.

MACHINE TOOL FACTORY

*160. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a foreign company has agreed to establish a factory for the manufacture of machine tools in India;

(b) if so, the name of the company and the capital cost of establishing the factory,

(c) what the total production is expected to be and what kinds of tools will be manufactured in this factory; and

(d) whether one of the terms of the agreement is that Indians should be trained in this factory, and if so, within what period should they be so trained?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). Government, with the assistance of Messrs. Oerlikon Machine Tool Works of Switzerland have decided to establish a factory for the manufacture of machine tools in India. The capital cost of the project is estimated to be Rs. 15 crores.

(c) About Rs. 8 crores per annum in value. The machine tools proposed to be manufactured will all be of high precision types of high-speed lathes, shaping machines, heavy duty drilling machines, milling machines, turret lathes, planing machines, grinding machines and patterns, jigs, tools and fixtures for the manufacture of tool room lathes, radial drilling machines and horizontal boring machines. These high precision types are not being manufactured in India now.

(d) Yes, Sir. Within a period of ten years, a sufficient number of Indians should be trained to hold not less than 85 per cent. of the technical posts in the factory.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the amount invested by Government in this concern? Is it a purely government concern?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, it is a government concern except that ten per cent. will be contributed by the Swiss Company itself.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is there any condition regarding royalty or any special profit to be paid to them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, there is a provision for royalty.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the details of it?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Shall I give some idea of the terms, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, of the royalty.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The royalty will be on a sliding scale, four to two per cent on the actual sales of the products of the factory, payable to the company.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether this will be affected by the recent policy of Government in regard to economy or whether Government has decided to start it?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have decided to give it top priority.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How soon is the factory expected to be started, please?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are just acquiring the land in Mysore and we are hoping to start construction in 1950.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know why this factory or any other factory proposed to be started by Government is not started in Northern India and particularly in the East Punjab?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There are other factories in Northern India.

Shri A. Karunakara Menon: May I know how long it will take to establish the factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The proposal now is to complete it in five stages and the entire factory is to be completed and come into full production within a period of not more than six years.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the Defence Ministry has also entered into an agreement with the same Swiss concern to start a machine tool factory of their own?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is a different thing altogether. The one will be complementary to the other.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are both the Ministries in co-ordination in regard to this matter?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, completely.

SAILING VESSELS COMMITTEE

*161. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether the Sailing Vessels Committee have made a report in connection with the vessels that ply on Indian coastal traffic?

(b) If so, what are their principal recommendations?

(c) How many sailing vessels exist on various coasts in India and what is their total capacity?

(d) Have Government considered the recommendations of this Committee?

(e) If so, with what result?

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

(b) Copies of the Report have been placed in the Library of the House. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to pages 27 to 39 of the Report in which the Committee's recommendations have been summarised.

(c) According to the figures given in the Report, the number of sailing vessels on the West and the East coasts in India is about 2,500 with a total tonnage of about 150,000.

(d) and (e). The recommendations of the Committee have been circulated to all the authorities and interests concerned for eliciting their views and they will be examined further on receipt of their replies.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is there any provision made in the recommendations regarding the fraudulent jettisoning by steamers against insurance?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, Sir, there is.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know when the Government is likely to come to a decision on these recommendations?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We are waiting to hear from the different interests that have been consulted in the matter and then only we can decide about the time of action.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Do these recommendations include the ships in the ports of Portuguese and French territories also?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The recommendations are many and long, and I would advise my honourable friend to read them. There may be some, I do not know—I do not remember all of them just at present.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Is there any representation of this House on the Committee? May I also know if the Report of the Committee is going to be placed before the Members of this House?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: One Member of this Honourable House, Mr. Veerabahu Pillai, was on the Committee. When the time for action comes, certainly the House will be consulted.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister kindly inform Members that the Reports are available in the library. Otherwise, how are the Members to know that they are in the library, until we get this information?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: By making enquiries from the librarian.

FRENCH POSSESSIONS IN INDIA

***162. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state when the city of Chandernagore is to be handed over to the Indian Union?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): The formal transfer of Chandernagore to the Indian Union can only take place by a Treaty signed by the Governments of India and France in accordance with the French Constitution. This Treaty will have to be ratified by the French Parliament. A draft of the Treaty is shortly expected from the French Government.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is there any hitch or delay? When the people of Chandernagore have definitely decided to join the Indian Union what is the cause for delay? Is there any other hitch?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: There are certain constitutional matters to be decided by the French Parliament and it is that which is holding up the matter. We are trying to expedite the matter as much as possible.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I want to know whether the French Government wants to go back upon it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have we a Consul-General in Pondicherry?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Yes, Sir, there is one.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it necessary under international or diplomatic conventions to give an enhanced status to French possessions or enclave in India—is it not enough to have a Consul or a Vice-Consul?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

INDIANS IN MADAGASCAR

***163. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the total number of Indians in Madagascar?

(b) Is it a fact that the French Government are expelling Indians from the island? If so, how many Indians have been compelled to leave the island?

(c) Is it a fact that a protest was lodged by several Indians in the island against this expulsion?

(d) What are the steps the Government of India are taking in this connection?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) There are reported to be 15,000 Asians in the Colony of whom some 8,000 are Indians.

(b) According to information received by the Government of India, thirteen Indians have been sent away from the Island.

(c) The Government of India have no information on this point though they have received representations from the deportees and others after their arrival in India.

(d) Individual cases have been referred to the local authorities through the British Consul General in Madagascar as well as through the French Embassy in India. Full particulars of the deportees from Madagascar have also been furnished to the Indian Embassy in France with a view to their taking up the matter with the French Government.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether one leader of the Indians who has come to India has stated that recently the Madagascar Government have issued an ordinance asking all the Indians to leave Madagascar and also not to transfer their property to their relatives? Is it a fact?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: We have no information about any general ordinance asking Indians to leave Madagascar. Certain reports have been received about disabilities that Indians suffer in Madagascar, and we are making enquiries about it.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the delegation has seen the Honourable the Prime Minister on the subject and if so with what result?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Does the Honourable Member refer to those who have been deported?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Who have come here?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not remember having seen a deputation on that subject.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Who have come here?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: For the moment I cannot remember. I see quite a number of people and there is no such impression left on my mind.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that a large number of Indians in Madagascar own lands there and eke out their livelihood through agriculture and that quite a good number of them have been compelled to give up their lands through the new ordinances that were passed there?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Indians settled in Madagascar occupy quite a good position there. Some of them are engaged in trade and commerce and also in agriculture. We have been receiving reports that some of them are being put to many disabilities due to the recent French laws. We are making enquiries about it and I may inform the House that with a view to establish in the future an Indian Consulate there to look after the interests of the Indian community we have sent our representative in South Africa to go and find out the facts and the position about the establishment of a Consulate.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether any reasons were assigned by the French authorities in Madagascar while deporting these Indians?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: We are making enquiries through our Embassy in Paris. We have not yet received a reply.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Are those people Indian citizens or citizens of the French Republic?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The question is a complicated one because under the French law any person who was born in a French territory, when he becomes 21 years of age, can claim French nationality, but at the same time he is conscripted for compulsory military service. The Indians there are quite entitled to become French citizens if they want to; some of them have taken up French citizenship while others have not.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: May we know anything of the attitude of the natives of the Island towards the Indians there?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the question is very vague. Next question.

LAND FOR SINDHI REFUGEES

*164. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have set apart a tract of land for the setting up of a model colony for Sindhi peasants?

(b) If so, at what place and within what area has this land been set apart?

(c) What will be the allotment of land to each family?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The answer is in the negative.

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

CEMENT

*165. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the price of Indian cement per ton, fixed by Government for sale in the market?

(b) What is the total tonnage produced in India per month and what is the total capacity of production?

(c) What is the price fixed for foreign cement per ton and what quantity is intended to be imported this year from various countries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Rs. 82/8/- per ton for destination for all the factories except three new ones which came into production this year, in whose case the price has been fixed at Rs. 90 per ton for a period of one year from 1st July, 1949.

(b) 170,000 tons and 238,583 tons respectively.

(c) The maximum selling price fixed for imported cement at the ports is landed cost plus ten per cent. or Rs. 135 per ton whichever is less. At other places prices are fixed by the Provincial and State Governments concerned after allowing freight charges from the ports. Cement was on O.G.L. upto 25th August, 1949 since when licences for import are required to be taken. It is not proposed to issue any licences except for quantities included in Trade Agreements.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that the price of Japanese cement is Rs. 50 or so less per ton than that of any other foreign cement but it is being sold at the same price as other foreign cement?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The price of Japanese cement is certainly lower, but I have not got the exact figure here. But as I pointed out, the scheme under which the prices of imported cement are fixed is in the hands of Provincial Governments.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that the importer of Japanese cement was forced to sell it at a higher price?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have no information. If the Honourable Member gives the particular area in which it was done, I shall look into it.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have the representatives of the cement industry of India represented to the Honourable Minister to enhance the price of their cement, and is it a fact that they assured him that if the price were raised they would raise the production so that he may not need any imports of cement from foreign countries?

* Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I have stated, we have increased the prices of cement of three factories but we do not see any reason for increasing the price of cement produced in other factories.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether the Central Government ordered and purchased foreign cement at a cost of Rs. 135 for the United Provinces Government, and if so, what is the quantity?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We had allowed Provincial Governments to purchase cement from foreign countries when cement was on O.G.L. and the total quantity of cement so imported from January till August was 180,000 tons.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that during the same period when O.G.L. was in operation, it was not possible to transport lots of indigenous cement from one place to another for want of transport facilities?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: For a very short period there were certain transport difficulties but we have now evolved a zonal system and there is no complaint regarding transport bottlenecks.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What is the total cement producing capacity of all the factories in India and what percentage is being actually utilized?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have given the figure under part (b). We are producing now 170,000 tons, but I can tell the House that we expect in the course of the next year to produce about 90 per cent. of our total capacity.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Is there any control over the distribution of imported cement?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Cement is now controlled by each Province according to certain directions issued by the Centre and it depends on each Provincial Government to decide how the distribution should take place.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have instance come to the notice of the Honourable Minister in which Indian cement was sold at a higher price as the foreign cement?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There were some complaints. In some cases enquiries were made, but I do not think anything was actually proved.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that import licences were given to persons who were dealing in the cement industry in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not know to whom import licences were granted.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: How many new factories have been started and what is their capacity?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The capacity for the new factories will be 430,000 tons. If the House wants to know the names of the factories I can give them but it is a long list. Their number is eight.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In view of the difference between the prices of foreign cement and local cement, have not Government issued instructions that both the kinds of cement should not be sold from one shop?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There was so much scarcity of cement during a certain period that the imported cement was utilised by the Provincial Governments for purposes for which indigenous cement was not available, but as the House has now been told that we are not importing any further cement the question will not arise in future.

SKARDU GARRISON

***166. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the present condition of the Skardu garrison of Kashmir, which surrendered to the Pakistan Army?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: After the surrender of Skardu in August, 1948, the Indian Military personnel captured there were transferred by the Pakistan authorities to Attock Camp. The delegates of the International Red Cross who visited that camp in May, 1949 reported that the state of health and morale of these prisoners was good.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether this garrison originally belonged to the Indian Army or the Kashmir State Forces?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think they are rather mixed—mostly Kashmir State Forces with some Indian Army personnel.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the Government is able to give us a date when these prisoners will be repatriated?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is a large question which does not apply to these prisoners only but to all prisoners. We have been consistently trying to have an exchange of prisoners. In fact, I believe there is a question today on this subject in answer to which I can give some figures. There has been this difficulty. We had asked for exchange of prisoners on either side and the Pakistan Government were on the point of doing so at one time, and then demanded that the exchange should be on a numerical basis, that is for every prisoner on that side one prisoner on this side should go and there the negotiations broke down. They are still being carried on in a sense.

I may mention that apart from this garrison, there were of course some civilians in Skardu who were also taken away and interned by the Pakistan authorities, about 200 or so civilians who were residents of that place. They also are in some kind of internment.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What is the total number of soldiers of this garrison?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I have not got the figure with me.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Among these 200 civilians who were interned, were there any women and is it a fact that many women were abducted?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not say whether there were any women or not—possibly there were. Nor can I say anything about the abduction of women from there. My information is that these civilians were brought to Peshawar by the Pakistan authorities just about a month ago or less than a month ago. Our High Commissioner has been making representations about these civilians, that they should be released, but we have had no reply to them.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many prisoners are there on each side at present?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have got the figure somewhere in answer to a question. I cannot give it straightaway.

Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung: May I ask whether Col. Thapa, the hero of Skardu, has sent a letter to the Government of India asking for repatriation to India from the camp where he is at present?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: He is a prisoner presumably.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Has the Government ascertained that the treatment meted out to these prisoners of war is according to international conventions and decency?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member has listened to me. I had said that the International Red Cross sent their representatives and reported favourably.

FAILURE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES

***167. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the number of Insurance Companies that have closed their business from 15th August, 1947 to date?

(b) Has any investigation been made by Government regarding the causes that led to the failure of those Insurance Companies?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The number of insurance companies registered under the Insurance Act, 1938, which have closed their business from 15th August, 1947, upto date is seven.

(b) While no special investigation under section 33 of the Insurance Act has been made, it is known that three out of these went into liquidation; two were amalgamated with other insurers, and the other two merely ceased to do fresh business, because, being small units, they found it difficult to carry on, their expenses being excessive in proportion to their business. In the case of one of the last two, most of the members of a Mutual Assurance Fund being non-Indians left India and the Fund went into voluntary liquidation.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know the total amount of public money lost by the closure of these companies?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have not got the information with me at the moment.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know the steps that have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to put to an end to this sort of closure of companies?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have indicated the reasons which contributed to the closure. It is not possible for Government, by whatever action they may undertake, to stop the closure of such companies irrespective of the circumstances that led to their disappearance.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were any steps taken before these three companies had gone into liquidation to protect the policyholders' interests, and if so, what were they?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The powers of the Superintendent of Insurance given under the Insurance Act of 1938 are very limited in character and are to be found in Section 33 of that Act. There are certain circumstances alone in which the Superintendent of Insurance can interfere in such cases, but my information is that wherever the Superintendent has sought to interfere in such cases, an application to the High Court has effectively barred all proceedings before the Superintendent, because the Court is given under that very Section itself an overriding authority in this matter. As a matter of fact, I might mention that we consider this state of affairs to be very unsatisfactory and that is the reason why in one of the provisions which we contemplate under the new Insurance Act, we have taken care to see that the powers of the Superintendent are not made negatory in this fashion.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: May I know the period for which these three companies which have gone into liquidation operated?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have not got the information just now, but if my honourable friend wants it, I certainly shall get it for him.

B. Sidhva: May I know the total number of policyholders affected by the scheme involved?

Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid even that I do not have at present.

Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When did the Superintendent discover that the companies had failed or were likely to fail?

Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Superintendent's duties are set out in the Insurance Act. Even if he had come to know that the companies were going bankrupt there was nothing that he could do, because the proceedings are regulated under the law.

Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When did he come to know, and in what way, of his duties to make representations or give directions to the companies to take particular steps so as to put their business on a proper and sound footing?

Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know whether in the three cases any such action was taken.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Were there any foreign re-assurers in those companies?

Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I do not know.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Have the Government any scheme whereby the interests of the policyholders may be safeguarded in any way or are we to underwrite the policyholders' money has gone for ever and cannot be recovered?

Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact, as far as I know, no compensation was received from the policyholders in this behalf.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Is it a fact that any organisation registered under the Insurance Act is free to operate an insurance scheme without any superintendence or control?

Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The supervision and control is exercised by the Insurance Commission over the companies as are registered under the Insurance Act.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Have the Government any scheme by which the interests of the company, which in the ultimate analysis is a co-operative concern, may be safeguarded when it is in a crippled state?

Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That opens up the possibility of underwriting a large responsibility on the part of Government, and I am afraid that this has not been considered as yet by Government.

SOUTH AFRICAN INDIANS

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the total number of Indians who returned to India from South Africa under the South African Government's Assisted Emigration Scheme up to 1949;

(b) whether all these people have been rehabilitated?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) 16,221 from South Africa and 19 from other countries.

(b) Arrangements are made as far as possible to assist the repatriates in finding suitable occupations in this country. Government have no exact information as to whether all the repatriates have been able to rehabilitate themselves.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know what other schemes have been adopted by the South African Government to force Indians to come back to India?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: As far as I know there are no schemes to force Indians. The scheme that is at present functioning is one which came into operation in 1927 and it is known as the Assisted Emigration Scheme. I might inform the House that the number of people who have profited from this scheme every year has gone down very much. During the last few years, only about 30 or 40 persons each year have considered it sufficiently attractive to profit by the scheme.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether it is a fact that all these people who have come back to India under this scheme are agricultural labourers?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: No, Sir. Most of the persons who came in the first half of the scheme were old people who came to India to go back to their villages and Government's report is that very small percentage of those people have ever asked for assistance from Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that in accordance with the United Nations Resolution the South African Government have agreed to discuss this whole question with representatives of Indian and Pakistan Governments?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Yes, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Round Table Conference between India, Pakistan and South Africa be held shortly?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I stated in my opening remarks for the session that the date fixed is February, 6.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the agenda been fixed for this Conference?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Conference is to fix the agenda.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When will it discuss the agenda?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know what other steps, besides the 1927 scheme, has the South African Government adopted to squeeze the Indians out of South Africa?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The scheme can hardly be described as a step to squeeze Indians out. It is an inducement, if you like—a direct inducement. There are undoubtedly other steps. It is rather difficult to enumerate them, but there has been reference to them in the public press during the last few months of additional difficulties in the way of Indians there.

FORCED LABOUR

*169. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made by Government towards stopping forced labour in India; and

(b) whether the officer deputed for investigating into the matter in different parts of the country has submitted his report?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) and (b). An Officer on Special Duty was appointed in August, 1948, to study the various legal enactments both Central and Provincial and all available literature on the subject of forced labour, and to submit a report indicating the extent to which the existing legislation was inadequate and to suggest legislative and administrative measures to eradicate this evil. He has submitted his report and on the basis of the recommendations made therein, the Government have requested the Provincial Gov-

ernments to consider the amendment of objectionable provisions in certain existing legal enactments. In addition, the Government are collecting information as to the extent of forced labour prevalent in remote parts of the country by means of questionnaires issued in connection with the Agricultural Labour Enquiry.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Are areas covered by jagirs in States and States Unions in the sphere of enquiry of the Investigating officer appointed by Government?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, Sir, it is proposed to extend the scope of the Agricultural Labour Enquiry to the States also.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it a fact, Sir, that the practice of getting forced labour is more common with the Government officials than anybody else?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the fact, Sir, that our New Constitution which bans *begar* comes into force on the 26th of January, 1950, has the Government set up any machinery to see that this *begar* is ended by that date?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, the eradicating of *begar* does not depend only on legislative provisions. It depends on social consciousness as well. It is common knowledge that in spite of such Acts existing as make the exaction of forced labour illegal, forced labour is prevalent in most parts of the country. A simple provision in the Constitution is not going to eliminate it, but all the same as I have stated already, all the various legislations have been examined and the provisions that are objectionable in these enactments are proposed to be repealed or amended.

Shri H. V. Kamath: My question was about the machinery that Government is going to set up.

Mr. Speaker: I think it has been replied to.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: In which parts of the country, and in what form, is forced labour prevalent?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Practically in every part of the country and in various forms this system persists even today.

PUSA ROAD DISPLACED PERSONS' COLONY

*170. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of houses built in the Pusa Road Displaced Persons' Colony; and

(b) the cost incurred by Government for the construction of each house and its sale price?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The total number of houses built on the Pusa Road Refugee Colony is 2,348.

(b) The houses have been offered for sale to the allottees at the cost price of Rs. 2,775 per unit in the case of double-roomed quarters and Rs. 2,075 per unit in the case of single-roomed quarters.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What was the cost incurred by Government on each house?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The cost incurred by the Government is the same at which they have been offered for sale.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Are Government prepared to give a guarantee of a time-limit within which these houses will not collapse.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is not necessary to answer that question.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Will Government please say how many colonies have been built for the refugees in Delhi?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have already placed a statement, in reply to a previous question, indicating the different schemes which are being implemented in Delhi.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Have all these houses been sold to the refugees.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No, Sir.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: How many have been sold out and how many yet remain to be sold?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Only fifty have been sold out so far, but there are other displaced persons who want to purchase them. We have, however, given the first right of refusal to the allottees.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the essential services have not so far been provided in the colony?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I do not think it is correct. Water and electric connections have been laid for the colony. Street lighting has also been provided. Perhaps, connections have not been given to individual houses.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Are these sales on hire-purchase system, or are they outright sales?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Both.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that after the last July collapse, there is no buyer for these houses?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Are those houses which have not been sold lying vacant, or have they been allotted to refugees to live?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There is no house lying vacant.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: How many houses have got water connections and how many houses have got electric connections?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: None.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the total number of applications received for the purchase of these houses by hire-purchase system and by the other system?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I will require notice of that question.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Arising out of the answer to this question, have public health arrangements been made for scavenging and other purposes?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: This is at present done by manual labour.

CLOSURE OF INDIAN EMBASSIES

*171. **Shri Arun Chandra Guha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any of the Indian embassies abroad have been closed down this year and if so, why?

(b) Do Government propose to close any other Indian embassy or legation within the remaining months of the current financial year?

(c) What would be the saving in expenditure by such closing down of embassies?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) to (c). No embassy or legation has been closed during the year, nor is it proposed to close any. Staffs have however been reduced.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it proposed to add to the number?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, it is not proposed to add to the number, except in very exceptional cases, where an emergency may arise. One such case in question has been Abyssinia.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that so far as one or two countries are concerned, Ambassadors who have returned from those countries will not be replaced?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, normally speaking we do not wish to incur additional expenditure, but where necessary they will be replaced; otherwise, the *Charge de Affaires* will carry on.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is it a fact that it is not proposed immediately to post Ambassadors in Italy and Turkey as a measure of economy?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is the exact question that my honourable friend Mr. Kamath put to me and I have answered him.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the emergency, Sir, that has arisen in regard to Abyssinia that we should be opening an Embassy there?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We are not opening an Embassy, but only a Legation. There is no question of an emergency in that sense. But the fact is that the Government of Abyssinia sent their representative here a long time ago and have expressed earnestly their desire that we should reciprocate. Sometimes it becomes a little difficult and almost discourteous to go on delaying such matters. Otherwise there is no emergency.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Are the Government considering the desirability of amalgamating the Embassies in the bigger units?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This cannot be done. Normally, as a matter of fact right from the beginning, when we started expansion of our Foreign Missions we wanted to do that and tried to do that to the best of our ability, but the other countries did not like it. Today there are several such cases. For instance the three Scandanavian countries Sweden, Denmark, and Finland are under one control, so far as our Mission is concerned. There again, another Scandanavian country which could easily have been added to that would not agree to that arrangement. There are such difficulties arising. In the Middle East and in Western Europe we have one Mission connected with other countries also.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know how much the proposed Legation in Abyssinia is expected to cost?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not give the figure. It will be a relatively small affair.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it considered necessary to have Embassies instead of Legations in Egypt and Italy?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is always a question of mutual arrangement with the other country. If the other country desires it—it is not our desire especially to have embassies—we agree. It really makes no great difference, in the sense that these names appear to have very much meaning. You may have a small Embassy or a big Embassy of the Grade A, or B. But generally the tendency all the world over is to call them embassies everywhere. We prefer Legations as far as possible and only Embassies in particular places. But ultimately, as I said, it is a matter of mutual arrangement.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: What is the extent of the economy sought to be effected by reducing the staff in our Embassies?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Such figures as I may give will be approximate only. I have some notes before me in regard to the economies effected by reduction of staff, especially the Publicity set-up. It comes to a little over Rs. 4 lakhs a year. I am not referring to other economies effected.

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL

*172. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of copra and coconut oil imported in the years 1948 and 1949; and

(b) from which countries these were imported?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). A statement showing the quantity of copra and coconut oil imported into India by sea from abroad during the financial year 1948-49, and the five months April to August, 1949, with names of the principal countries of export is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 2.)

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: May I know whether we have enough copra and coconut oil in the country and if so, what steps the Government propose to take to export them?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: My honourable friend's assumption is not correct at all. India's annual consumption is estimated to be 370,000 tons in terms of copra or 233,000 tons in terms of cocoanut oil out of which approximately only two lakhs tons of copra are met from indigenous production. Therefore we have to rely upon imports for getting 170,000 tons more of copra.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Is it a recent agreement that this Government entered into with Ceylon for cocoanut oil and copra import and if so, may I know the prices agreed upon?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Certain quantities have been agreed upon, but the question of prices was not considered.

Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor: Does Bharat export copra? Does Bharat or India export any copra?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: No.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: May I know whether the United State of Travancore and Cochin have protested against the present policy and passed a motion for adjournment of the House?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The whole attitude of Travancore and Cochin Union in relation to this matter is entirely unreasonable.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Government have entered into an agreement for the purchase of a ton of copra and another ton of cocoanut oil from Ceylon recently?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Just one ton. I do not know.

Shri P. T. Chacko: One lakh tons?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: No, Sir. The agreement is for the supply of 20,000 tons of cocoanut oil from Ceylon.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Government have consulted the representatives of cocoanut producers in India in regard to this matter?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: There was not the least necessity for doing so in view of the fact that we are very heavily in deficit in regard to copra and cocoanut oil in this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government examine the price relationship between the imports as well as local production?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: When we know the prices we will go into that matter. So far as the agreement is concerned, it has nothing to do with prices.

Shri A. Karunakara Menon: In view of the fact that there is in existence a Central Coconut Committee, did the Government consult them before they entered into any contract as regards the quantity to be imported?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Committee referred to, functions under the Ministry of Agriculture. In agreeing upon any quantity of import from abroad, we had not merely to consult the Agriculture Ministry, but obtain its concurrence to our proposal.

Shri A. Karunakara Menon: My question was whether the Indian Central Coconut Committee was consulted?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is a matter for the Ministry concerned.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Government would find out the price at which Pakistan is getting coconuts from Ceylon?

Mr. Speaker: That is entering into an argument over the question now.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am not prepared to find out what Pakistan pays for coconuts from Ceylon.

CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

†*173. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there has been a large number of violations of cease fire line by the Pakistan troops in Kashmir?

(b) Is it a fact that in such cases the people living in these areas have been harassed and maltreated?

(c) Is it a fact that the U.N.O. observers cannot materially help when they reach the spot after the raids?

(d) Have the Government of India decided to take effective steps to protect the life and property of inhabitants there?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) There were numerous serious violations of cease-fire arrangements by Pakistan troops in the first half of this year. After the signing of a cease-fire agreement in July 1949 there have been only a few minor breaches of the agreement. These have been amicably settled.

(b) It is a fact that in the serious violations to which I have referred, the people living in the neighbourhood were harassed.

(c) U.N.O. observers have been of material assistance in settling the disputes.

(d) All possible steps have been taken to protect the life and property of the inhabitants of the border.

FUEL RESEARCH INSTITUTES

†*174. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 1539 asked on the 31st of March 1949 regarding the Fuel Research Institute and state the progress so far made by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in fuel research?

(b) How many fuel research institutes have so far been established in the country and which are the places where they are established?

(c) What is the amount of expenditure incurred and what are the details of research work carried on so far and the results obtained?

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

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 3.)

SYNTHETIC OILS

†*175. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have contracted with any American firm to establish in India plants for production of Synthetic oil and if so, on what terms;

(b) whether Government are aware that researches for cheaper production of Synthetic oil are going on in America and if successful, are likely to bring about revolutionary changes in the mechanization of the industry;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of postponing the present plans pending results of the new researches; and

(d) what the number of students sent to foreign countries for study in Synthetic oil is, how many have returned and where they have been employed?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) No, Sir; Government have not entered into any contract with any firm for the establishment of Synthetic oil plants in India.

(b) and (c). The entire question of the manufacture of Synthetic oil in India is still under consideration. Government are keeping themselves acquainted with the latest researches in the field.

(d) No students have been deputed by the Government of India to foreign countries for studying the manufacture of Synthetic oils.

SYNTHETIC OIL PLANT IN KOREA

†*176 **Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal from Korea State has been analysed for purposes of production of Synthetic oil and if so, with what results; and

(b) whether Government have got any plan to establish a Synthetic oil plant in Korea?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). No, Sir.

CHILD LABOUR

†*177. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of children under 14 years of age working at present as labourers in various industries and mills?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Statistics regarding the number of children under 14 years of age employed in various industries are not readily available. A statement showing the average daily number of children who have not completed 15 years of age employed in industries covered by the Factories Act, 1934, is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 4.) Employment of children under the age of 14 is now prohibited under the new Factories Act, 1948, which has come into force only from the 1st of April, 1949 and the Employment of Children Act, 1938, as amended. Employment of children below 15 is also prohibited in mines by the Indian Mines Act, 1923.

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

SOCIAL INSURANCE FOR LABOURERS

†*178. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government contemplate introducing compulsory social insurance scheme for such class of labourers, who can afford to pay for this, and if so, what steps are being taken in this direction?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: A compulsory social insurance scheme for employees whose wages do not exceed Rs. 400 p.m. in factories other than seasonal has already been provided for by the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. The Act provides certain benefits to employees in case of sickness, maternity and employment injury. Steps are being taken to introduce the scheme in the Delhi Province from early next year and to extend it gradually to other areas as circumstances permit.

The experience that will be gained in administering the scheme among organised labour will be utilised for considering the question of extending it to less organised labour. The act already provides for such extension to any establishment or class of establishments, industrial, Commercial or otherwise.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

†*179. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether there is any department of the Commerce Ministry to keep vigilance over the malpractices of the Managing Agents of Joint Stock Companies, and if so, how many such cases of malpractice have been detected in the years 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49, and whether any Company has been prosecuted?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Indian Companies Act is administered in the Provinces and the centrally administered areas through the respective Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners. The reply to first part of the question, therefore, is in the negative. As regards the second part of the question, the information is not readily available.

INDIAN PRISONERS IN PAKISTAN

*180. **Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian prisoners in Pakistan taken into custody during the Kashmir operation;

(b) the number of such prisoners belonging to the Indian Army and to the States Forces of Kashmir;

(c) the number of prisoners in India belonging to the Pakistan Forces and to the Azad Kashmir Forces;

(d) whether there has been any attempt for exchange of such prisoners; and

(e) If so, with what results?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) 692.

(b) 45 belong to the Indian Army and 647 to the Jammu and Kashmir State Forces.

(c) Nine belonging to the Pakistan Forces and 115 to other Forces.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(d) Yes.

(e) It has not yet been possible to reach an agreement with Pakistan which is prepared for exchange only on a man to man basis while our view is that the totality of our prisoners should be exchanged for the totality of theirs.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Is there any civil population?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: These are figures of military personnel.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: May I know if India is at war with Pakistan over the Kashmir issue?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is at present a cease-fire of military operations carried on by the Indian troops against various types of invaders in Kashmir.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What percentage of the prisoners taken by Pakistan died during imprisonment?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In answering clause (c) of this question, did I hear the Honourable the Prime Minister saying Pakistan forces and other forces? I could not catch the answer.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: When I say Pakistan Forces it means the regular Pakistan army. The others are what are usually called Azad Kashmir forces or irregulars attached to the Pakistan Forces.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do we recognise them as Azad Kashmir forces?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We recognise them only as forces assisting the regular Pakistan army.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

EXPORT OF SUGAR

*181. **Shri C. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether any quantity of sugar was exported from India during the current year?

(b) If so, what was the quantity so exported and to what countries was the export made?

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

(b) A statement is laid on the Table showing the information asked for. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 5.)

IMPORT OF COTTON YARN

*182. **Shri C. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what is the value of the import of cotton yarn and other yarn and textile fabrics (i) during the quarter ended 30th June, 1949 and (ii) during the quarter ended 30th September, 1949?

(b) What are the countries from which these imports have been made and what is the value of such imports from each country?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). Statements giving the required information are laid on the Table of the House (Information placed in the Library; see No. P-20A /49). Figures for September 1949 are not yet available.

IMPORT OF CARS

***183. Shri C. Subramaniam:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the total value of the import of cars and other motor vehicles during (i) the quarter ended 30th June, 1949 and (ii) the quarter ended 30th September, 1949?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Articles	Quarter ending 30th June, 1949	Quarter ending 30th September, 1949.
	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Motor Cars (including taxi cabs)	1,40,55,362	57,97,898
2) Motor cycles (including scooters)	15,84,200	7,56,541
(3) Motor omnibuses, motor vans and motor lorries.—		
(a) Imported with bodies	33,39,776	10,29,754
(b) Chassis	2,29,86,965	1,29,39,154

U. S. A. GOODS FOR DISPOSAL

***184. Shri O. V. Alagesan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the value of the stocks of surplus goods of U.S.A. with the Disposals Directorate as on 1st October, 1949?

(b) Has a full and detailed inventory of the goods been made and if so, do Government propose to place a copy of the same on the Table of the House?

(c) Are there any consumers' goods in the above stocks and if so, of what value?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The book value of American Surplus Stores for disposal on 1st October, 1949 amounted to Rs. 69.2 crores.

(b) Yes, in respect of all depots under the charge of the Director-General of Disposals except four depots which contain Signal Stores. A copy of the list has been placed in the Library. Verification of Signal Stores has been delayed because it involved work of a highly technical nature. It is expected that verification of Signal Stores will be completed in the course of a fortnight.

The Tata Aircraft Ltd. as Agents of the Government also hold American Surpluses. They also have completed the inventory. But their lists are in the form of card indexes.

(c) Yes. The book value of the consumers' goods held on 1st October, 1949 was about Rs. 11 lakhs. Goods of the book value of about Rs. 9 lakhs have since been sold and the balance stock worth about Rs. 2 lakhs will be auctioned shortly.

DISPOSAL SHOP AT CALCUTTA

***185. Shri O. V. Alagesan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Disposals Directorate had decided to close their shop at Calcutta and sell all the remaining stocks in wholesale auctions?

(b) If so, what are the reasons which led to this decision?

(c) Was the decision taken before devaluation or after?

(d) If it is the former, was the decision reviewed in the light of devaluation?

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

(b) The Retail Shop has been closed down because the running of the shop proved un-economical as the percentage of expenditure was high due to the low turnover. The demand for disposals goods had apparently decreased. This was particularly so, as a very great proportion of usable goods had already been sold.

(c) The decision was taken before devaluation, i.e., on 26th August, 1949.

(d) Yes, the matter has been reconsidered. Devaluation has not brought about any material change in the position so far as the reasons leading to the decision to close the Retail Shop are concerned.

COTTON TEXTILES

***186. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the various factors which go to constitute the ex-mill price of cotton textiles and yarn as fixed by Government?

(b) How is the 20 per cent. of profit allowed on ex-mill price divided generally among agents of distribution who come in between the producer and the consumer?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table.

STATEMENT

(a) The main items which go into the cotton textiles price are :

(i) price of cotton, (ii) manufacturing charges including wages, millstores, fuel and power, (iii) overheads, (iv) depreciation of machinery etc., (v) interest on working capital, and (vi) return on fixed capital.

The ex-mill prices are fixed by the Government in accordance with a formula recommended by the Tariff Board, which takes into account all the above elements.

For further details I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraphs 6 to 12 of the Report of the Indian Tariff Board on Cotton Yarn and Cloth Prices, 1948.

(b) The margin is divided between the nominee of the Provincial or the State Government, who purchases the cloth from the Mill, the wholesaler to whom he sells the cloth or yarn, the sub-wholesaler, where there is a sub-wholesaler, and the retailer. Freight from Mill to wholesale distribution centre, freight from that centre to the retailer and intermediate storage and handling charges are included in this margin, as also the sales tax charged, if any, by the Provincial or the State Government of the Manufacturing Centre.

The 20 per cent. allowed in the case of cloth and 15 per cent. margin allowed in the case of yarn were ceilings within which the Provincial or the State Government were at liberty to fix a smaller margin. Conditions, including freight charges, being very different in different consuming areas, the distribution of the total margin between the various agencies such as the nominee of the Provincial or the State Government, the wholesaler and the retailer, has been left to the Provincial and the State Governments. The margin allowed to the Provincial and State nominees generally varies between 2 per cent. and 4 per cent., that to the wholesaler between 3 per cent. and 6 per cent., and that to retailers between 7 per cent. to 12 per cent.

The Honourable Member will remember that the maximum permissible margin has been reduced to 14 per cent. in the case of cloth and 12½ per cent. in the case of yarn from the 1st November last.

COTTON TEXTILE

*187. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the total quantity and the value of cotton textiles and yarn exported out of and imported into India during the period from 1st April, 1949 to 30th September, 1949?

(b) Why was foreign cloth imported during the said period?

(c) From which countries was the import made?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (c). Statements giving the required information during the period 1st April to 31st August, 1949 are placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 6.) Figures for September, 1949 are not yet ready.

(b) Imports of foreign cloth from soft currency areas were allowed to meet the deficiency in the supplies in the country and as essential consumer goods, as an anti-inflationary measure. Cotton cloth was accordingly placed on the Open General Licence from July, 1948 and silk and art silk fabrics from November, 1948. Such imports without licence were, however, prohibited in the case of silk and art silk from 1st July, 1949 and in the case of cotton cloth from 27th July, 1949, and, except for a few "concession licences", imports of foreign cloth are not being licensed during July-December, 1949, licensing period.

HEAVY INDUSTRIES

*188. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how far Government have been able to implement their decisions to establish Government-owned iron and steel manufacturing and ship-building industries in India?

(b) What is the total expenditure incurred by Government on the preliminary survey and examination of the above matters?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) *Iron and Steel Industry.*—The reports of the Consultants, appointed to survey and report on alternate schemes including advice on selection of site, etc., which forms the First Stage of the scheme, have been examined in consultation with the Provincial Governments and other interests concerned. It has been found that it would be economical and feasible to put up two plants each designed to produce about 500,000 tons of steel annually, with facilities for doubling this capacity, in the Central Provinces and in Orissa. Further steps are under consideration.

Ship-building Industry.—I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Starred Question No. 3 on the 28th November, 1949.

(b) Rs. 10,71,630 (approximately) for the iron and steel project and about Rs. 30,000 representing only the actual expenses of the naval experts' stay in India for the report on shipbuilding.

ATOMIC RESEARCH

*189. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the steps taken to promote Atomic Research in India?

(b) Have any steps been taken to conserve the thorium and allied deposits in India?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Under Section 13 of the Atomic Energy Act (XXIX of 1948), the Government of India have set up an Atomic Energy Commission;

(i) to take such steps as may be necessary from time to time to protect the interests of the country in connection with atomic energy by

the exercise of powers conferred on the Government of India by the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act;

(ii) to survey the territories of the Indian Dominion for the location of useful minerals in connection with atomic energy;

(iii) to promote research in India on atomic energy and to subsidise such research in existing institutions and universities; and

(iv) to take steps to increase teaching and research facilities in nuclear physics and chemistry in Indian Universities.

The Atomic Energy Commission is advised by a Board of Research consisting of 9 scientists and by a Cosmic Ray Research Committee consisting of five experts.

(b) Appropriate steps have been taken by Government to conserve the thorium and allied deposits in India. Export of monazite, the principal source of thorium is prohibited under the Atomic Energy Act and only exports as may be considered desirable in the national interest will be permitted.

EXPORT AND IMPORT CONTROL

*190. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the steps taken to re-organise the export and import control systems?

(b) Has this re-organisation system resulted in better efficiency?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). It is not very clear to me as to what exactly the Honourable Member seeks to elicit. On the import side, the only recent administrative change of any importance is that the issue of licences for import of non-ferrous metals has been taken over by the Commerce Ministry from the Industry and Supply Ministry. Likewise, licensing of iron and steel goods not subject to internal control, which is now being done by the Industry and Supply Ministry, will be taken over by the Commerce Ministry shortly. Thus, steps are being taken to centralise all import licensing under one authority.

On the export side, centralisation of controls under the Commerce Ministry has been achieved by transferring items, which were so far handled by the Food and Industry and Supply Ministries to the Commerce Ministry.

It may be added that from the organisational aspect, the system of export and import licensing is kept under constant review with a view to eliminating delays in the grant of licences, and scope for abuse of any kind.

INDIA HOUSE

*191. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the India House in London is going to have very shortly a Cinema Hall on the ground-floor of the main building?

(b) If so, what expenditure has been incurred by the Indian High Commissioner there for furnishing this Cinema Hall?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) £700, which includes cost of repairs to the room, provision of projection cabin fire-proofed for special lining and additional weight of curtains and limited sound proofing electrical apparatus, platform for the screen, etc.

GOODS FOR DISPOSAL

*192. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of motor and aeroplane tyres left for disposal by U. K. and U. S. A. in India;

(b) quantity of these tyres since sold and the price fetched;

(c) the quantity of these tyres at present in store and their estimated value;

(d) whether the tyres in store are in serviceable condition; and

(e) whether any test about the serviceability or otherwise of these tyres has been conducted?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 7.)

(e) Tyres from U.K. stocks are examined quarterly by the Ministry of Defence.

As regards motor tyres *ex-U.S.* surpluses, no tests about their usability have been conducted.

Aeroplane tyres have been tested, but they are not considered dependable, as the risks involved in using overage tyres in aircraft are considered too great.

TEXTILE CONTROL

***193. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the measures which have been applied in regard to the control of textiles under the new control scheme;

(b) the date from which those measures have been applied;

(c) the amount of success achieved in checking leakage; and

(d) whether any new measures are under contemplation?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 8.)

DISPLACED PERSONS (HOUSING)

***194. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons in Delhi according to (i) the last census and (ii) departmental estimates,

(b) the steps taken to house them indicating how many have been housed by the allocation of (i) evacuee houses and (ii) houses specially built for displaced persons; and

(c) what plans have matured to house the remaining houseless displaced persons?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The number of displaced persons in Delhi is 3,77,117 according to the last census but the latest estimates indicate that the number of displaced persons in Delhi is not less than 5 lakhs.

(b) (i) About 1,91,000 displaced persons are housed in evacuee houses in Delhi at the moment.

(ii) Provision for 58,000 displaced persons is being made in the housing schemes sponsored by the Ministry of Rehabilitation which are likely to be finalised by the end of the current financial year.

(c) The quota of displaced persons fixed for Delhi is 3 lakhs against which 2,49,000 would be housed by the end of the current financial year. Schemes for the remaining 51,000 displaced persons are being processed.

SIKH GURDWARAS IN PAKISTAN

***195. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negotiations were carried on with Pakistan regarding the property of Sikh Gurdwaras left in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Negotiations were carried on with the Government of Pakistan regarding Trust Properties of non-Muslims left behind in Pakistan, including property of Sikh Gurdwaras.

(b) The matter was last considered at the Inter-Dominion Conference in January, 1949; and in view of the complexity of the problem, it was agreed that a Joint Committee consisting of three Members from each Dominion should be appointed to consider this question. The matter is now under the consideration of the Committee.

PERMITS TO INDIA

***196. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who got permits to enter India from Pakistan since the introduction of the permit system;

(b) how many of them have permanently settled in India; and

(c) whether there has been any infiltration from Pakistan into India without permits?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Between the 19th July, 1948, i.e., the date on which the Permit System was introduced, and the 31st October, 1949, approximately 1,02,000 permits of all kinds were issued by the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner for India in Pakistan. The number of persons actually entering India will be larger as often more than one person is covered by a permit.

(b) Of the number shown under part (a) nearly 8,000 permits were for permanent resettlement in India.

(c) Yes; but the exact number is not known. Such cases as come to the notice of the local authorities are dealt with under the law and the persons concerned deported to Pakistan.

PERMITS TO PAKISTAN

***197. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of persons who have gone to Pakistan by permits since the introduction of this system?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): We have no reliable information readily available as permits are issued by the High Commissioner for Pakistan in India. No authority from the Government of India is necessary for such permits.

DEWAN IN SIKKIM

***198. Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the reasons that led the Government of India to appoint a Dewan in Sikkim when a popular Ministry under Shri Taushi Teering, the President of the Sikkim State Congress, was functioning?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): The reasons for taking over the administration of Sikkim State and the appointment of a Dewan were explained in the Press note issued at the time of taking over the control of the State, a copy of which is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 9.)

REHABILITATION EXPENDITURE

***199. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on rehabilitation by the Central Government in the years 1947 and 1948 and from 1st January to the end of October, 1949;

(b) the expenditure incurred on rehabilitation by the various Provinces and States during each of the above periods; and

(c) the grants made by the Central Government to each of the Provinces and States and the share contributed by each of the Provinces and States for each of the above-mentioned periods?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) to (c). A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 10.)

POLITICAL PENSIONS

***200. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the names of foreign refugees and descendants of those who rendered service abroad to whom political pensions were paid by the predecessors of the present Government with the amount of pension paid in each case;

(b) whether all these pensions are being continued in their entirety by the present Government;

(c) if not, what modifications have been made therein; and

(d) whether any amounts are being paid to His Majesty the King of Afghanistan and His Majesty the Maharajadhiraj of Nepal and if so what the amount paid in each case is?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) There are no such foreign refugees or descendants of persons who rendered service abroad in receipt of political pensions from the present Government. There may have been some such in the past, but it is not easy to trace them.

There were however 123 Afghan refugees who were in receipt of maintenance and other allowances from the British Government of India. Since the Partition, 92 of them have either left India or have died. Only 31 Afghan nationals now in India are in receipt of allowances. Their names and allowances are shown in the list placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 11.)

(b) Before the Partition a sum of Rs. 13,580 monthly was paid to the Afghan refugees in India. Now a sum of Rs. 6,826 is being paid monthly to those that remain.

(c) A number of changes have been made and the whole question is periodically reviewed.

(d) No amounts are paid to His Majesty the King of Afghanistan or His Majesty the Maharajadhiraj of Nepal. A sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has been paid annually by the Government of India to the Government of Nepal since the first World War.

WAR REPARATIONS

***201. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether War Reparations of all kinds have been received from (1) Germany and (2) Japan;

(b) if so, what their monetary value is; and

(c) what the total amount of our claim was?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Reparations are being received at present from Germany only. As regards reparations from Japan, some time in 1947 a directive was issued by the U.S.A. Government permitting advance transfer of a portion of plant and machinery available as reparations to China, Philippines, Netherlands for Netherlands East Indies and the United Kingdom for Burma, Malaya, Hong Kong, etc. India was not included in this programme in spite of all our efforts. In May, 1949, an announcement was made that all plant and machinery in Japan were required for that country's economic recovery and even advance deliveries to the countries mentioned above were stopped. It cannot therefore be stated now whether or when any reparations will become available from Japan.

(b) The monetary value of the reparations received from Germany by India is about Rs. 3,71 lakhs as on 30th September, 1949.

(c) The total amount of reparation claims submitted on behalf of prepartition India against Germany was about Rs. 490 crores and that against Japan about Rs. 2,800 crores.

DISPLACED PERSONS IN CAMPS

***202. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the camps for displaced persons which are still being maintained by the Government of India and the number of inmates (men, women and children separately) in each camp, and the amount involved in their maintenance;

(b) when each such camp is likely to be closed; and

(c) how many of the present inmates of these camps are proposed to be given monetary or other help in order to enable them to earn a decent living before affecting closure of these camps?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The names of Camps still maintained by the Government of India are given in the statement (No. I) laid on the Table. No separate figures are available in respect of men, women and children in these camps.

On an average the expenditure per head is Rs. 30 and Rs. 10 in rationed and non-rationed camps respectively.

(b) A statement (No. II) containing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) It is not possible to estimate the number at present.

STATEMENT I

I. Names of the Camps and Their Population

Serial No.	Name of the Camp	Population
(1)	Deoli	2,700
(2)	Kurukshetra	7,000
(3)	Yol	10,000
(4)	Jammu	32,098
(5)	Rajpura	40,000
(6)	Faridabad	15,258

STATEMENT II

Dates on which various Camps are to be closed

- (1) *Deoli*: Will be closed in the first week of December 1949.
- (2) *Kurukshetra*: Has been closed on 30th November 1949.
- (3) *Yol*, (4) *Jammu*: It cannot be said at present when these camps will be closed but it is hoped that the Jammu Camp will be handed over to the Jammu and Kashmir Government very shortly and the Yol Camp may be closed by the end of March 1950.
- (5) *Rajpura*, and (6) *Faridabad*: These camps have since been derated and the Government are incurring expenditure only on Accommodation, Establishment, Medical and Health arrangements and Education of children and this expenditure will be continued upto the end of March, 1950.

TRADE WITH PAKISTAN

*203. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the value of total exports and imports between India and Pakistan from the commencement of the current year upto the eve of devaluation?

(b) What were the main commodities imported from and exported to Pakistan?

(c) What is the position in respect of trade and commerce from the time of the Rupee devaluation?

(d) Have any efforts been made since to dissolve the trade stalemate existing between the two Dominions, and if so, with what results?

(e) How have the Rupee devaluation and the cessation of the inter-dominion trade and commerce between India and Pakistan affected the jute and cotton trade of India in the internal and the international markets?

(f) How do the Government of India propose to meet the situation so as to preserve intact its dollar earning capacity in the hard currency area?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House, furnishing the required information for the period 1st April to 31st August, 1949. Figures for September are not yet available. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 12.)

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House giving the requisite information. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 13.)

(c) Since the devaluation of the Rupee the trade between India and Pakistan has been more or less at a stand-still.

(d) The Government of India are in correspondence with the Government of Pakistan in the matter.

(e) It is too early to express an opinion on the point.

(f) No difficulty has yet been felt in the maintenance of our Dollar earnings.

MATCH INDUSTRY

*204. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of match factories in India together with their annual outturn,

(b) the total normal consumption per year of matches in India and the value of match boxes imported into or exported from India;

(c) whether any raw material for the manufacture of matches is being imported from outside; and

(d) whether India is self-sufficient in this Industry; if not, whether there is any plan for making India self-sufficient and if so, by which date it is likely to be self-sufficient?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) 200. Their outturn was 5,33,243 cases of 50 gross boxes of 60 sticks each in 1948 and 3,94,279 cases during the first nine months of the current year.

(b) About 5,00,000 cases. The value of matches imported during 1948-49 was Rs. 15,525. The actual export figures are not readily available, but the quotas fixed for the last three years are given below:

1946—30,000 cases of 50 gross boxes of 40 sticks each.

1947—30,000 cases of 50 gross boxes of 40 sticks each.

1948—40,000 cases, of which 10,000 cases were earmarked for export to Pakistan.

(c) Yes, sulphur, phosphorus and potassium chlorate.

(d) Yes, Sir. We have in fact an exportable surplus and the export has been free from March, 1949, but we have to depend on imports for chemicals like sulphur and phosphorus. There is no immediate prospect of India becoming self-sufficient in regard to these two chemicals.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

*205. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) in how many cities and towns Employment Exchanges are functioning and what the total number of persons engaged in running this organisation is, as also the amount of expenditure incurred by the Government of India on this account;

(b) the number of Training institutions run under this Organisation in various parts of India together with the number of trainees in each of them and the amount of expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the number of ex-servicemen, refugees and other civilians applying for employment through these Employment Exchanges and the number of persons actually securing employment through them;

(d) whether there is any system of calling for periodic reports about the employees sent by the Employment Exchanges from the employers;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Economy Committee appointed by the Parliament has recommended that this work should be handed over to Provincial Governments, and if so, whether the Provincial Governments have been contacted in this connection and what their attitude is; and

(f) if the Provincial Governments are not willing to take up this work, what action the Government of India contemplate to take in respect of these schemes?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) There were 54 Employment Exchanges and 54 District Employment Offices functioning under the Ministry of Labour on 1st November, 1949. The staff employed in these Employment Offices was 1,557. (Gazetted Officers 235; Non-gazetted 866; and Class IV 456). The total expenditure incurred up-to-date on the Employment Exchange Organisation is Rs. 1,23,02,500, of which the Central Government's share is Rs. 78,12,600.

(b) There are 428 Technical, Vocational and Apprenticeship Training Centres under this Organisation. The number of persons undergoing training as on 31st October, 1949 was 13,842. A regionwise statement showing the number of training centres and the number of trainees in each region is laid on the Table.

The total expenditure incurred so far on the Training Schemes (including expenditure on the training of refugees) is Rs. 4,01,15,500; of which the Central Government's share is Rs. 2,17,96,700.

(c) For the period January—October, 1949, at a monthly average, 11,450 ex-servicemen, 14,731 displaced persons and 65,540 others were registered for employment assistance. Out of them, on an average about 2,000, 4,000 and 16,000 respectively secured employment every month.

(d) No, Sir. Due to insufficient staff, it has not been possible to call for such periodic reports in respect of every candidate placed by the Employment Exchanges. Employers are, however, asked to comment on the service rendered by the Exchanges and their comments have generally been favourable.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. The Economy Committee set up by the Government of India recommended the transfer of control of the Employment Exchanges situated in the Provinces, to the Provincial Governments.

The Provincial Governments were contacted through their Labour Ministers, and the matter was discussed at a Labour Ministers' Conference in January, 1949. While the Provinces were willing to take over the actual administration of the Exchanges and Training Schemes after July, 1950, it was stated that they were not in a position to do so unless the Government of India bore the cost of the organisation in the same proportion as at present, viz., 60:40. It was also urged that if it was not possible for the Government of India to agree to this financial arrangement, the *status quo* should be maintained. Accordingly, the Resettlement and Employment Schemes have been extended for another two years, i.e., upto 31st July, 1952, and the existing financial arrangements are being continued. Reduction in expenditure to the tune of Rs. 40 lakhs has been made in the revised budget of 1949-50. In the budget for 1950-51, the expenditure will be about Rs. 64 lakhs less than what had been budgeted for in 1949-50.

STATEMENT

Number of Training Centres and number of persons undergoing training at these Centres on 31st October, 1949.

Region	Number of training centres				Number of persons undergoing training			
	Tech- nical	Voca- tional	Appren- ticeship	Total	Tech- nical	Voca- tional	Appren- ticeship	Total
Assam	1		14	15	85	44	15	144
Bihar	4	5	3	12	155	97	39	291
Bombay	5	4	14	23	835	177	56	1,068
C.P. and Berar	1	2	3	6	352	87	20	459
Delhi and Ajmer-Mer- wara.	4	2	39	45	551	272	114	937
East Punjab	14	7	39	60	1,317	311	417	2,245
Madras	27	11	34	72	2,521	806	287	3,614
Orissa	1	4	3	8	175	79	3	257
United Provinces	10	34	36	80	1,941	1,236	102	3,279
West Bengal	7	9	91	107	779	385	384	1,548
Total	74	78	276	428	8,911	3,494	1,437	13,842

MINIMUM WAGES

***206. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state what steps have so far been taken or are intended to be taken by the Government of India for the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act passed in 1948?

(b) Have any Provinces, States or Unions of States set up any machinery for the fixation of minimum wages for industrial and agricultural labour, if so, which Provinces and with what results?

(c) Have the Government of India taken any steps for the establishment of a machinery for fixation of Minimum Wages in the Centrally Administered Areas and if not, why not?

(d) Do Government intend to set up such machinery in these Provinces, and if so, by which date, and will it be both for agricultural and industrial labour?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) I place below a statement showing the action the Government of India have already taken and propose to take to implement the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 14.)

(b) Yes. The Government of India understand that the Governments of West Bengal and Madras have set up Committees in respect of some of the employments specified in part 1 of the Schedule attached to the Minimum Wages Act for advising them to fix minimum rates of wages. The Government of Bombay are also conducting necessary enquiries in regard to some of the scheduled employments. The Government of Assam have taken steps to form a committee so far as employment in Tea Plantations is concerned. Advisory Committee for the Province of Delhi has also been constituted while it is the intention of the Ajmer-Merwara Administration to publish proposals regarding minimum rates of wages under section 5 (1) (b) of the Act "for

employment under any local authority" and "for employment in any Tobacco Manufactory".

(c) and (d). As already stated in reply to part (b), the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Administrations themselves have either already taken or propose to take the necessary action. The Government of India have notified that the functions of the appropriate Government under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, shall, in respect of every Chief Commissioner's Province, be exercisable by the Chief Commissioner. The Government of India have impressed upon all the Provincial Governments and Administrations that the provisions of the Act should be fully implemented before the prescribed dates.

EXPORT TO DOLLAR AREAS

***207. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities the export of which to the dollar areas is proposed to be stimulated on account of devaluation of the rupee in terms of Gold; and

(b) the commodities the import of which from the dollar areas is proposed to be restricted?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Devaluation by cheapening the prices of Indian goods is expected to give a stimulus to Indian exports to hard currency countries in general and particularly to those countries where price resistance was being felt by Indian exporters. In this category I would mention jute manufactures, shellac, cotton piecegoods, coir matting, hides and skins and also, to a lesser extent, tea and mica. The list, as the Honourable Member will appreciate, is not exhaustive and deals only with the more important articles of our export to the hard currency countries.

(b) Statements are placed on the Table, giving the desired information of commodities the import of which from dollar areas is being substantially reduced and those which are now not being licensed at all for imports from dollar areas. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 15.)

I may add that the policy for severely restricted imports from dollar areas was prepared and announced by means of a Public Notice published in the Government of India Gazette, Extraordinary, dated the 13th September, 1949, only very shortly before devaluation and no changes for the current licensing period July-December have been found necessary. The matter will be reviewed as usual in connection with the framing of import licensing policy for the January-June, 1950 period.

THE TRAVANCORE FERTILIZERS AND CHEMICALS LTD. (AID)

***208. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are giving any financial aid to the Travancore Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited, Alupuram Alwaye?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government have expressed their willingness to offer temporary help under certain conditions.

EXPORTS AFTER DEVALUATION

***209. Shri Upendranath Barman:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the quantity and value of India's export to hard currency areas during the post-devaluation period commodity-wise?

(b) How has devaluation affected the export of edible oil and oilseeds and their internal price?

(c) Which are the commodities whose import has been discontinued from dollar areas since devaluation?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The figures of exports after devaluation are not yet available.

(b) Among the edible oil and oilseeds, only groundnut and linseed are, as a rule, exported overseas. There are signs of increased export activity in groundnut to-day, but it is difficult to say how much of this is due to the downward trend in prices on account of the better crop we are expecting, and how much is due to devaluation. There has been no perceptible change in linseed. There seems to have been no noticeable effect of devaluation on the prices of oilseeds and oils and such minor changes as have taken place seem to be due to the normal working of the forces of supply and demand. The indications are that prices will fall as a result of improved crop prospects for groundnut in 1949-50.

(c) The licensing policy for the import of commodities from the dollar, hard currency and soft currency areas was announced in the Public Notice, dated the 12th September, 1949, and no change has been made therein since devaluation. It is difficult as yet to have a full picture of the effect of devaluation and therefore to revise the import programme accordingly. The position will, however, be watched and changes, if necessary, will be made in the next half year.

PEPPER (EXPORT)

***210. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that permits issued to merchants at Alleppey, Travancore, for the export of pepper were cancelled recently;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that this step has caused great hardship to the pepper growers in selling their produce;

(c) whether Government have received any representations from merchants and pepper producers regarding this matter; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in the matter?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Alleppey port being under the jurisdiction of the Travancore-Cochin Union, the Export Control Officer of that port is under the Administrative control of the said Union Government. Government of India have, therefore, no information whether pepper licences issued to the merchants at that port had been cancelled. Enquiries are, however, being made into the matter.

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

FREE EXPORT LIST

***211. Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what are the main commodities which have been placed on free export list ever since the devaluation has been effected?

(b) What other commodities are being examined to be placed on this free list?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) A statement showing the main commodities which have been placed on the free list for export since devaluation was effected, is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 16.)

(b) The position in respect of all the controlled commodities is constantly under review, the policy of the Government being progressively to relax export control in consonance with internal and foreign trade requirements. It is not, however, possible at the moment to indicate particular commodities which may be placed on the free list for export in the near future.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

*212. Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

- (a) how much money was sanctioned for the development of Cottage Industries;
- (b) how much of it has been spent and for what purposes;
- (c) whether the Cottage Industries Board is entrusted with the distribution of this money as between different schemes; and
- (d) whether Government propose to allot a bigger sum for the development of cottage industries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Rs. 75,000 in the year 1948-49, and Rs. 8,00,000 in the current financial year plus Rs. 10,00,000 as a grant to the Handloom Development Fund.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VI, annexure No. 17.)

(c) The money is spent on schemes which have the general approval of the All-India Cottage Industries Board.

(d) Yes.

REHABILITATION GRANT TO P.E.P.S.U.

*213. Kaka Bhagwant Roy: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state how much money has been given to P.E.P.S.U. Government for relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons?

(b) Is it a fact that the money given so far is less than the demand of the P.E.P.S.U. Government?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) The amount allotted to P.E.P.S.U. was Rs. 60 lakhs in 1948-49 and Rs. 105 lakhs during 1949-50.

(b) Against the demand of Rs. 70 lakhs in 1948-49 a sum of Rs. 60 lakhs was allotted. In 1949-50 a sum of Rs. 206 lakhs was demanded. After a detailed examination a sum of Rs. 105 lakhs was allotted. This is considered adequate for meeting the requirements of P.E.P.S.U. this year.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

STORES FOR MINISTRIES

7. Shri R. L. Malviya: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the volume of stores purchased for meeting the requirements of the various Ministries of the Government of India has increased more than the peace-time requirements of undivided India?

(b) What are the figures of purchases of every department of the Government of India for the years 1939-39, 1939-40, 1946-47 and 1947-48?

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

(b) The figures of purchases are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Friday, 2nd December, 1949

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

EXCHANGE BANK OF INDIA AND AFRICA

*214. Shri R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Exchange Bank of India and Africa Ltd. has been wound up under the orders of the court?

(b) What was the amount of depositors' money at the time the bank stopped payment?

(c) How many depositors were there?

(d) When was the inspection of this bank made by the Reserve Bank and what was the report on the said bank?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The High Court, Bombay, has passed an order for winding up the Bank and an official liquidator has been appointed for the purpose.

(b) Information regarding the amount of deposits on the 2nd May, 1949, when the bank suspended payment is not available. The latest figures available relate to the 22nd April, 1949, and according to these the amount comes to about 2.75 crores of rupees.

(c) Government have no information about the number of depositors.

(d) The last inspection was made in May, 1949, under the direction of the High Court, Bombay, in terms of section 37 of the Banking Companies Act, 1949. The inspection report was made to the High Court and its contents cannot be disclosed without the permission of the High Court, Bombay.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the cause of compulsory winding up by the court?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is a matter of proceedings before the court.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: My point was whether the court took the initiative or some of the depositors or shareholders took the initiative for winding up this Bank.

Mr. Speaker: Ordinarily, courts make an order on the application of a party. He may be a shareholder. I think it is a matter of record. I won't allow the question.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Honourable Minister has information whether this winding up was because some of the Directors dabbled in share speculation and whether they are involved?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid, now, as the matter is *sub judice* before the High Court, one cannot go into these questions at this stage. It will be a matter for decision by the High Court.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The House is entitled to know. A sum of 2.53 crores of depositors' money is involved. The shareholders are involved.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member must realise that all these questions are questions of investigation judicially by the High Court. His question was whether the failure was the result of any directors dabbling in speculative transactions. That is not a matter which can be answered here. That is a matter for decision before the High Court in the liquidation proceedings. In fact, it is not possible for him to get information here when the proceedings are pending in the High Court.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I be permitted to ask one question? Up to what stage the High Court proceedings have gone, may I ask that question?

Mr. Speaker: They are liquidation proceedings. That is all. Next question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the names of the Directors and the Managing Director of this Bank?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have not got the names here.

FIRE IN R.I.N. DOCKYARD, BOMBAY

*215. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the beginning of June 1949 there was a serious fire in the R.I.N. Dockyard in Bombay?

(b) If so, what was the total damage caused to Government and what were the goods so damaged?

(c) Were the goods insured and if so, for what amount and has the amount been recovered from the insurance company?

(d) What was the cause of the fire?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) The total damage is in the neighbourhood of Rupees 30 lakhs. Various articles such as radio equipment, stationery, bicycles, furniture, records etc., were stored in the building that caught fire.

(c) No. Normally Government stores are not insured.

(d) A Board of Enquiry was convened to investigate the circumstances of the fire. The Board thought the fire may possibly have been due to electric short circuit, spontaneous combustion, lightning or carelessness such as thoughtless throwing from the public road outside, of a lighted cigarette end. The Board were of the opinion, however, that proper precautions had been observed by the authorities.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, why Government stores are not insured? Have they no value? What is the policy of the Government?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is the normal practice because the premium is so heavy.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know from the Honourable the Finance Minister whether it is the policy of the Government that their stores wherever they are have no value and need not be insured?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member is arguing now.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I want to know what is the reason for not insuring.

Mr. Speaker: The premium is heavy as stated by the Honourable Minister.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I want to know what the premium is. Have they enquired what the premium is?

Mr. Speaker: That is entering into an argument.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the Government maintaining any fire fighting equipment and facilities wherever they keep stores?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any other private concerns who store similar articles insure? I do not know why the Government.....

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I can allow that question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Were any fire engines employed in extinguishing the fire and how much time did the fire engines take in reaching the place?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The fire engines of the Bombay Corporation were working. Not one, but several.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Three or four alternative causes have been given. May I know, has any particular specific cause been fixed for the fire or not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No; these are the possible causes. It has not been possible to ascertain what the exact cause was.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What steps have the Government taken to prevent such an occurrence in the future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As I have already stated in my reply, all possible precautions are taken.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know where the new building of the dockyard is sought to be located? In the same place?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Not decided as yet.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Have the Government made sure that it was not a case of sabotage?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have got no information to that effect.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: Is there a fire engine in the dockyard itself?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am not quite certain; but I think fire fighting equipment on a small scale is provided everywhere, but not fire fighting engines.

RADAR EQUIPMENT FOR R.I.A.F.

*216. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether any Radar Equipment has been installed at any Military airfield in India?

(b) If so, what are the names of such airfields?

(c) Has any order been placed in foreign countries for Radar equipment?

(d) If so, what is the total quantity and value of this equipment and has any of the equipment since arrived?

(e) Are the Indian Air Force Officials trained in the operation of Radar? If so, how many radar operators in India are Indians and how many are foreigners?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (e). All that is necessary and possible to strengthen the defences of the country is being done. It is, however, regretted that it is not possible to divulge the details.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any official of the Defence Ministry made a statement regarding the placement of orders for these radars and if that is so, may I know why information is denied to this House by the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am not aware of the statement made by any official of the Ministry. But, as the Honourable Member knows, radar is an important equipment. What I have stated is, all possible steps are being taken to strengthen the defences of the country. It is not possible to divulge the details.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether in Bombay a high military officer made a statement that radar equipment is surely to be installed in all military air fields in India, that the R.I.A.F. have placed orders in the United Kingdom, that one has already been set up in Palam? May I know if that is correct? In what other places have these been installed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is an open secret that radar equipment is absolutely necessary. I do not deny that arrangements are being made to instal radar equipment wherever it is necessary. It is not possible to give details.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether our Indian Air Force are undergoing special training for this purpose?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sorry, it is not possible to give details.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister if he is trying to utilize those people—Indians—who have been trained during the War? There was a battalion in Palam dealing particularly with radar operations.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes.

IRON LUNGS

*217. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether arrangements have been made to import portable respirators to combat Poliomyelitis?

(b) If so, how many have arrived and have they been experimented on the patients and if so, with what results?

(c) What was the cost of these imported iron lungs?

(d) Is it contemplated to import more?

(e) How many cases of Poliomyelitis have occurred in India?

(f) How many proved fatal and how many have survived?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) Yes. Through the World Health Organisation.

(b) and (d). Five have arrived and fifteen more are expected shortly. There has been no occasion so far to use them on patients. The five which have arrived have been tested and found to be in satisfactory working order.

(c) The cost is met from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund's allocation to India. Each "ironlung" is estimated to cost about \$1,100.

(e) and (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 1.)

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Have any of these lungs been sent to Bombay?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I have no information about that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is this disease, Poliomyelitis, new to India or have any cases occurred in the past?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: It has been discovered recently.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know before these orders were placed for import from abroad the Government took any measures to find out whether our own hospitals here in India were equipped with these "iron lungs"?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Some of our hospitals are equipped with the "iron lungs".

Shri A. Karunakara Menon: May I know in how many cases were these "iron lungs" used and how many were successful?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Some deaths occurred before these iron lungs were received but since these lungs have been received, there has been no occasion for using these.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister if he is aware that there is a drug in South India which is useful for infantile paralysis and whether any attempts are being made to utilize it more and more?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Government have no information

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, I would like to know whether the Business of the House should not take priority over other business with the Honourable Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker: We take it for granted that there must be some unavoidable reasons.

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS

*218. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of scholars sent overseas and the names of places they were sent to, during the current year?

(b) How many are for technical and practical training and what stipends have been offered to them?

(c) Are these scholars given training in such industries which are likely to grow in India in the near future?

(d) Has the new scheme for sending scholars to foreign countries for study which was announced by Government during the last session materialised? If so what are the details thereof?

آنرہبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (ا) چوالیس اسکالرز بھیجے گئے - ۳۵ - یو - ایس - اے -

۸ - یو - ۷ - ایک سو تترالیہ

(ب) اورسہ اسکالرشپ کی پرانی اسکیم ایک جنرل ایجوکیشنل اسکیم تھی لیکن اس میں تکنیکل اور پریکٹیکل تربیلنگ کا بھی انتظام کیا گیا تھا - جو اسکالرز باہر بھیجے گئے ان میں بڑی تعداد ایسے لوگوں کی تھی جنکی پڑھائی کے پروگرام میں تکنیکل اور پریکٹیکل تربیلنگ کا بھی کورس تھا -

خرچ کا سہارا جو ہر اسکالر کو دیا گیا تھا وہ یہ ہے

۴۰۰ پونڈ سالانہ

یو - کے اور سوئٹزرلینڈ کے لئے

۴۶۰ پونڈ سالانہ

آکسفورڈ اور کیمبرج کے لئے

۱۹۲۰ ڈالر

یو - ایس - اے کے لئے

ٹیوشن کی فیس اس میں شامل نہیں ہے -

(c) پرائیوی اس اسکیم اس طرح چلائی گئی ہے کہ سنٹرل گورنمنٹ - پراونشل گورنمنٹ اور انڈین اسٹیٹ گورنمنٹ کی منسٹریوں سے پوچھا جاتا تھا کہ ان کی مانگیں کیا کیا ہیں اور ان کی مانگیں کو سامنے رکھ کر اسکالر چنے جاتے تھے - ایسا نہیں کیا جاتا تھا کہ ملک کی انڈسٹری کی مانگیں سامنے رکھ کر اسکالر چنے جائیں - پھر بھی یہ بات ضرور کہی جا سکتی ہے کہ اسکالر کی ایک اچھی تعداد ایسے سبجیکٹ کے لئے چلی گئی جس سے انڈین انڈسٹری کو فائدہ پہونچا -

(d) نئی اسکیم کو چلانے کے لئے تمام کام پورا ہو گیا تھا اور امیدواروں کے چناؤ کا کام شروع ہونے والا تھا لیکن اچانک اسے روک دینا پڑا کیونکہ جو روپیہ اسکے لئے نکالا گیا تھا بجٹ کے خیال سے اس میں اڑچن پڑ گئی - اب معاملہ پر پھر غور کیا جا رہا ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Forty-four scholars out of whom thirty-five have been sent to the U.S.A., eight to the U.K. and one to Switzerland.

(b) The Overseas Scholarships Scheme is essentially an educational one but technical and practical training forms an integral part of it and is imparted where necessary. The majority of the students have courses of technical and practical training included in their programmes of study.

The rate of stipend for U.K. and Switzerland is £400 per annum for all institutions except Oxford and Cambridge where the rate is £460 per annum. For the U.S.A. the rate is \$1,920 per annum. These figures exclude the actual tuition fees which are paid direct to the institutions concerned.

(c) These scholars were selected and sent abroad against the specific needs of the various Ministries of the Government of India, the Provincial Governments and the Indian States Governments, and not particularly with a view to manning Indian industries, although some of them are actually receiving training in subjects useful for industrial development.

(d) All preliminaries of the New Scheme had been settled and the selection of the candidates was about to commence, but due to financial difficulties the work had to be stopped.

شری آر - کے - سدھوا : میں جناب وزیر صاحب سے پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس میں کتنے لوگوں نے پورا کورس کیا -

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know from the Honourable Minister how many of the scholars completed their course?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : بغیر ضروری انکویری کے میں یہ نہیں بتا سکتا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot say without making necessary enquiries.

سردار بھوپندر سنگھ مان : جو طالب علم باہر بھیجے گئے تھے واپس آنے پر

انکو مناسب جگہ دلائی گئیں یا نہیں ؟

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Have those scholars who were sent abroad been fixed up against suitable posts on their return or not?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : بڑی تعداد کو جگہیں دلائی گئیں ہیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: A large number have been provided with jobs.

سردار بھوپندر سنگھ مان : ان وظیفوں میں کتنی تعداد دلت

جاتیوں کی تھی ؟

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: What was the number of scheduled-caste scholars out of this?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اسکے لئے نوٹس کی ضرورت ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I require notice for this.

श्री जय नारायण व्यास : क्या माननीय मिनिस्टर साहब यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो तादाद हिस्सा (b) में बताई गई है उसमें वह तालिबेइल्म भी शरीक हैं जो स्टेट्स और स्टेट्स यूनियन की तरफ से भेजे गये हैं ।

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether the number referred to in part (b) also includes the scholars sponsored by the States and States Union?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ہاں اس تعداد میں انڈین اسٹیٹس کے طالب

علم بھی شامل ہونگے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes. The scholars from the Indian states may have been included in this figure.

श्री जय नारायण व्यास : इन स्कालरों में जिनको स्टेट की तरफ से खर्चा मिलता है, क्या वह इस तादाद में शरीक है या नहीं ?

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Does this figure include the scholars whose expenses are borne by the states or not?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اورسیز اسکالرشپ اسکیم میں انڈین اسٹیٹس

کے طالب علم بھی رکھے گئے تھے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The scholars from Indian states were also included in the Overseas Scholarships Scheme.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या इसमें इस बात का ख्याल रखा गया है कि सिर्फ़ उन्हीं विषयों के लिये विद्यार्थियों को बाहर भेजा जाय जिन विषयों के लिए हिन्दुस्तान में शिक्षा देने का प्रबन्ध नहीं है ?

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Minister please say whether this has been kept in view that scholars should be sent abroad for training in those subjects only for which no arrangements exist in India?

अनुरूप मोलाना अबुलकलाम आज़ाद : अनुरूप मेम्बर को अच्ची طرح معلوم है کہ اورسینر اسکالرشپ کی پرانی اسکیم پچھلی گورنمنٹ نے شروع کی تھی۔ اس میں کئی طرح کی خامیاں تھیں جنہیں موجودہ گورنمنٹ نے محسوس کیا اور اسلئے اسکیم ختم کر دی گئی۔ ایک خامی یہ تھی کہ جن سبجکٹ کی پڑھائی کا ملک کے اندر بہ آسانی انتظام کیا جا سکتا تھا اسکے لئے بھی کچھ وڈیارتھی باہر بھیجے گئے لیکن جو تعداد میں نے اپنے جواب میں بتلائی ہے ان میں سے کوئی وڈیارتھی کسی ایسی تعلیم کے لئے نہیں بھیجا گیا ہے جو ہندوستان میں اس وقت مل سکتی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Honourable Member is very well aware that the old Overseas Scholarships Scheme was introduced by the previous Government. It contained many obvious defects which the present Government felt and it was for this reason that this scheme had to be abandoned. One of the defects was that even in respect of those subjects in which training could be easily arranged in India, scholars were sent abroad. But the number which I have stated in my reply does not include any scholar who has been sent for receiving training in any subject arrangements for which are at present available in India.

श्री अजीत प्रसाद जैन : इन तुलबा के चुनने का क्या तरीका है ? क्या ये युनिवर्सिटी की सिफारिश पर चुने जाते हैं या गवर्नमेंट अपनी ज़िम्मेदारी पर उनको चुनती है ?

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What is the method of selecting these students? Are they selected on the recommendations of the University or the Government make the final selection on their own responsibility?

अनुरूप मोलाना अबुलकलाम आज़ाद : सلیकشن बोर्ड के ذریعہ طلباء چنے جاتے ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The scholars are selected through the selection boards.

شری دیپس بلدهو گھتا : جو طلباء ٹیکنیکل اور دوسری تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے لئے دوسرے ملکوں میں گئے ہیں کیا انکا کوئی ریکارڈ رکھا جاتا ہے ؟ ڈیپلومیشن کی وجہ سے جو اخراجات انکے بڑھ گئے ہیں اسبات کو مدنظر رکھتے ہوئے کیا گورنمنٹ نے انکو سہولیت دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے ؟

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is any record maintained of the scholars who have gone to receive training in technical and other subjects in foreign countries? Have Government decided to give them any facilities in view of their increased expenses as a result of devaluation?

انورپل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ڈیپلومیشن کی وجہ سے سہولیت دینے کا سوال پیدا نہیں ہوتا بچت کا سوال پیدا ہو جاتا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The question of giving facilities because of devaluation does not arise. The question that arises is one of saving.

شری دیپس بلدهو گھتا : میرا مطلب ان طلباء سے ہے جنکو ڈالر کی وجہ سے مشکلات پیش آئیں گی۔

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I am referring to those students who would be faced with difficulties on account of the dollar.

انورپل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ابھی تک منسٹری کے سامنے ایسی کوئی مشکل پیش نہیں آئی اور اگر آئیگی تو اس پر ضرور غور کیا جائیگا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No such difficulty has as yet been brought to the notice of the Ministry. If and when it is brought to the notice, it will be considered.

شری دیپس بلدهو گھتا : میں جناب وزیر صاحب سے دریافت کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ پرانی اسکیم کے ختم ہونے کے بعد جو نئی اسکیم چلائی گئی ہے اس کے مطابق تعلیم پانے کے لئے باہر امیدوار بھیجے جائیں گے یا نہیں۔

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether or not scholars will be sent abroad for receiving education under the new scheme that has been started after the old scheme has ceased to operate?

انورپل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : نئی اسکیم کے مطابق کام ہو رہا تھا مگر اسے روک دینا پڑا کیونکہ پھر نئے سرے سے بچت کا سوال پیدا ہو گیا۔ نتیجہ یہ نکلا کہ ابھی تک امیدواروں کے سلیکشن کا کام شروع نہیں ہوا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The new scheme was being acted upon, but it had to be stopped because the question of economy cropped anew. The result is that so far the selection of candidates has not started.

سےٹ گوویند داس : جو نئی سکیم بنائی جائیگی اس میں کیا اس بات کا خیال رکھا جائیگا کہ انہیں ویسوں کے لیے ویڈیاریں باہر بھیجے جائیں جنکی تالیم ہندوستان میں نہیں دی جاتی ؟

Seth Govind Das: While framing the new scheme, will this be kept in view that scholars are sent for training in those subjects only for which arrangements do not exist in India?

انورپل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یقیناً۔ نئی اسکیم میں یہ بات سامنے رکھی گئی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Certainly. This thing has been kept in view under the new scheme.

مستتر تحصیل حسین : میں یہ جانتا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا کوئی ایسے طالب علم بھی ان میں ہیں کہ جن کو وظیفے ملے ہوں اور وہ آنے کے بعد پاکستان بھاگ گئے ہوں -

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I know whether there are such scholars who were given stipends and on their return went away to Pakistan?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ کے علم میں ایسا کوئی کیس نہیں آیا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No such case has come within the knowledge of the Government.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: How many scholars who had gone abroad and returned to India still remain to be absorbed by the Government or industries in the profession?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جیسا کہ میں نے ابھی کہا ہے بڑی تعداد کو کام پر لگایا جا چکا ہے - کتنے آدمیوں کے لئے ابھی انتظام نہیں ہوا ہے اسکی تعداد میں ابھی نہیں بتا سکتا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Just as I have already stated, a very large number have been employed. I cannot tell the number of those for whom arrangement has not yet been made.

چوہدری رنبیر سنگھ : क्या मंत्री महोदय को पता है कि कृषिविद्या पढ़ने के लिये भी विद्यार्थी बाहर भेजे गये थे और अब आने पर उनको कोई जगह नहीं दी गई है ?

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that scholars were also sent abroad for receiving training in agriculture, and now on their return they have not been provided with any jobs?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : بڑی تعداد کو کام پر لکایا گیا ہے - کچھ لوگ ایسے بھی ہیں جن کیلئے کوشش کی جا رہی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: A large number have been provided with employment. There still remain some such men for whom efforts are being made.

DEPUTATIONS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

*219. **Shri B. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of deputations for various purposes that went to foreign countries in the years 1948 and 1949 up to the end of October from all the Ministries?

(b) What is the total expenditure on each such deputation?

(c) Do Government intend to curtail the expenditure on such deputations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) 130 and 103 in the years 1948 and 1949 respectively.

(b) Total expenditure during 1948 and 1949 on these deputations has been Rs. 25,59,000 and Rs. 845,000 respectively. A statement showing the cost of each such deputation will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(c) Government have already taken suitable measures to curtail the expenditure on deputations as far as possible.

+ Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

OVER-TIME AND CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCES

*220. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total amount of money distributed among the officers and staff working in the various Ministries at Delhi on account of over-time and conveyance allowances, from 1st April 1949 to 31st October 1949?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The total amount is approximately Rs. 1,62,000.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if these allowances bear any relation to the basic pay of the person who draws the allowance?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, it does not.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: According to what rules are these allowances granted?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, as the Honourable Member himself knows, there are two kinds of allowances. There is the over-time allowance and there is the conveyance allowance. The bulk of the expenditure incurred is in respect of the conveyance allowance. This conveyance allowance is granted to clerks and *chaprasis* who happen to stay late in the office or who attend office on holidays, to meet their transport expenses.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Does the rule still continue, or you have stopped it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It continues.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if it is due to any shortage of personnel that there is work left, even after office hours?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is partly the quantum of work, and partly scarcity of personnel in particular spheres of work.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: To what classes of officers is this over-time allowed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is given to officers of only one department, that is, the Overseas Communication Service here. The other class of employees to whom over-time allowance is paid, I think are drivers of staff cars.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I want to know whether officers are paid over-time allowances for working in the office after office hours.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, not to officers, but only to clerks and *chaprasis*.

IMPORT OF SPORTS GOODS FOR C.O.D., DELHI

*221. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Skymaster plane chartered by the Government of India arrived in Bombay on the morning of the 5th September, 1949 from London *en route* to Delhi carrying 4,000 pounds of Sports goods consigned to the Central Ordnance Depot, Delhi;

(b) the expenditure incurred by Government for chartering the plane; and

(c) the total cost of these 4,000 pounds of sports goods, brought by the plane?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (c). The plane in question was chartered under the instructions of the Defence Ministry and carried approximately 21,500 lbs. of urgently required training equipment of considerable value.

(b) £ 2,750.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know what is the meaning of the term "training equipment"? Do they mean sports goods?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: May I make it clear. They are not sports goods as understood by the Honourable Member. It is special equipment for the training of troops in a particular line.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether it is the usual practice for the Defence Department to bring these goods from European countries in chartered planes?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is not the normal practice. But this equipment was required within a specific period, and after that period there was little use for it, and that is why we had to charter a special plane to bring this equipment.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether enquiries were made in India whether these things which were imported from outside were manufactured in India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If these goods had been manufactured in India, the necessity to import them from abroad would not have arisen.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the value of the goods imported?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I regret it is not possible to disclose the value, but it was equipment of considerable value.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

*222. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans taken by India in different instalments from the International Monetary Fund to date; and

(b) the terms and conditions of such loans?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The total purchases made so far from the International Monetary Fund amount to \$99.98 million. Of this amount \$44.12 million were purchased during the period March, 1948 to June, 1948 and the balance during the period July, 1948 to March, 1949.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer I gave to part (a) of Starred Question No. 574 on 22nd February, 1949.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What percentage of this total is borrowed by the different provinces and States of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is not possible to allocate in this manner the amount that we have purchased from the International Monetary Fund, among specific categories of expenditure.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it proposed to purchase any new loan in the current year, in addition to what has already been purchased from the International Monetary Fund?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is no such intention just at present.

DEMONSTRATION MALARIA TEAM

*223. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any Demonstration Malaria Team has come to this country in connection with Government's Anti-malaria Campaign for 1949?

(b) If so, what is the total expenditure incurred by Government in this connection?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) Four World Health Organisation malaria control demonstration teams have been allocated to India for two years to demonstrate in selected areas of high malaria endemicity, modern methods of malaria control at the lowest feasible costs and to train local professional and auxiliary personnel. Three, out of these four teams, are already working in the Terai areas in the United Provinces, Jeypore Hill tracts in Orissa, and Malnad in Mysore. The fourth team is expected to start operations shortly in Ernad in Madras.

(b) The total cost to the Government of India is estimated at Rs. 90,000 for one year on account of the board and lodging and internal travel expenses of the World Health Organisation personnel. The cost to the Provincial Governments concerned for the first year is estimated at Rs. 4,18,000 and for the second year at Rs. 3,18,000.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether these teams coming from abroad have developed some new technique of the treatment, which was unknown in this country before?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The report has been recently submitted and it has not been possible to assess its value so far.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: I only wanted to know whether they have adopted or developed any new technique.

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I cannot give the details, it is an expert thing, it is all included in the report and the report is under the consideration of Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know if any Indian doctors have been associated with the operations of these teams, and if so, how many?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Yes, there is a parallel Indian team as an under-study, consisting of a malarialogist, an entomologist, a senior malaria inspector, three or four other malaria inspectors and other auxiliary staff to carry on the programme of work after the departure of the foreign team.

Sgt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Has any of these teams visited Assam so far, which is one of the worst affected parts of India?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Not for the present.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether there is any other scheme for the control of malaria, under consideration, besides bringing out these teams from abroad?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Of course, there are.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: In which part of India are the parties working?

Sri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: In which province of India is the incidence of Malaria highest?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I want notice.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Government of India made any special contribution to the International Organisation for sending out these teams?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The Government of India is already making a contribution of six lakhs to the W.H.O.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Any other general contribution from there?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Nothing.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: To what countries do these persons constituting the teams belong?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The W.H.O. is composed of different countries. If the Honourable Member wants a specific answer I would like to have notice.

DISPLACED PERSONS IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

*224. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons so far rehabilitated and settled in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) how many of them are from East Bengal; and

(c) to which classes they belong?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The number of displaced persons so far rehabilitated in the Andamans is 777. They comprise 187 families.

(b) All of them are from East Bengal.

(c) One hundred and seventy-six families are cultivators, seven are artisans, one confectioner, one compounder and two do not belong to any particular category.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: How many of those persons who went to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have come back and what are their reasons for their coming back?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Twelve families have since returned to the country, two on account of illness and others on account of their unwillingness to do any kind of work.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: What facilities are given to them? Are agricultural and house building materials available there?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The concessions given to them are (i) free passage with board from Calcutta to Port Blair, (ii) ten acres of land free of cost with remission of land revenue for the first two years, (iii) grant of Rs. 30 to every adult member and Rs. 15 for every child subject to a maximum of Rs. 100 per month per family for a period of nine months from the date of disembarkation at Port Blair, (iv) grant of two buffaloes as plough cattle and one she-buffalo as milk cattle, (v) grant of seed paddy, agricultural implements and manure free of cost, (vi) artisans and non-agriculturists are given half an acre of land for construction of houses and financial assistance as admissible to agriculturists for a period of three months, and (vii) all the families are to be given sufficient building materials free of cost.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: In how many of these islands which constitute the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have these displaced persons been rehabilitated?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are so many small islands. I cannot tell the Honourable Member in what and how many islands they are distributed.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How much has been spent so far on these refugees?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot say offhand how much is spent at present. I must have notice of that question.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it proposed to send any more families there? If so, how many?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It depends upon the Bengal Government's desire to send more families there.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: This allotment of ten acres of land, is it per adult member of the family or for the entire family?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Ten acres of land with remission of land revenue to the family.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Is this scheme of settlement in the islands open only to displaced persons?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: For the present that is the only demand.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether Government intend to give land in these islands to those people who are willing to go and settle there and do agricultural work?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: So far Government have received no application from other persons.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: What steps are taken by the Bengal Government to popularise the scheme among the refugees in Bengal?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Bengal Government have advertised it fully.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Are Government satisfied that these agricultural facilities which the Honourable Minister just now mentioned have actually been given to those settlers?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of course all the facilities have been given.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know whether the West Punjab refugees are allowed to go and settle there?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: They are very unwilling to go and settle there.

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITALS

*225. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the number and names of the Tuberculosis hospitals in the Indian Union?

(b) How many of these are run by the Government of India and how many by Provincial Governments?

(c) How many are under private management and do they receive any grants from Government?

(d) How many patients died in the Tuberculosis Hospitals in the year 1948.

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) to (d). A statement containing the information required so far as is available at present is placed on the Table of the House. See Appendix VII. annexure No. 2.)

Information is still due from some Provincial Governments. It will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it becomes available.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: What is the total contribution made by the Children's Emergency Fund of the United Nations to tuberculosis in the country and how do Government propose to spend the money?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I require notice.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to encourage the treatment of tuberculosis by Ayurvedic methods?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I require notice.

Mr. Speaker: The best course for Honourable Members would be to study the statement put in by him and then put him any further questions.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR TRAINING ABROAD

*226. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of students sent abroad to have training in Agriculture and allied subjects in the years 1948 and 1949?

(b) How many of them received scholarships and help from (i) the Government of India and (ii) other Governments?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) ۲۹ اسٹوڈنٹس بھیجے گئے - ۱۶ سالہ ۱۹۳۸ میں اور ۱۳ سالہ ۱۹۳۹ میں -

(b) ۹ سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کے - ۳ پروونشل گورنمنٹوں کے اور ۱۶ انڈین اسٹیٹس کے - پروونشل اور انڈین اسٹیٹ گورنمنٹوں نے جن لوگوں کو بھیجا تھا ان کا پورا خرچ انہیں گورنمنٹوں نے اٹھایا - صرف ایک وڈیارہی کے لئے سنٹرل گورنمنٹ نے آدھا خرچ دیا تھا -

دو پروانٹیویٹ اسٹوڈنٹس کو بھی گورنمنٹ نے قرض کے روپ میں مدد دی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Twenty-nine students, comprising sixteen during 1948 and thirteen during 1949.

(b) (i) Nine of these received scholarships from the Government of India, and (ii) four were sponsored by the Provincial Governments and sixteen by the Indian States Governments.

The expenditure on the Provincial sponsored students was borne by the Provincial Governments except in the case of one where it was shared by the Government of India with the Provincial Government in the ratio of 50:50.

The expenditure in respect of the States sponsored students was borne entirely by the States concerned.

In addition to the above twenty-nine scholars two private students who went on their own responsibility were given financial assistance in the form of a loan from the Government of India.

مسٹر تجمل حسین : جو طلباء تعلیم پانے کے بعد واپس آئے ہیں اور جن کو ملازمت ملی ہے کیا حکومت کے پاس ایسی کوئی اسکیم ہے کہ جتنا روپیہ ان کی تعلیم پر خرچ کیا گیا ہو وہ کسی پرسنٹیفک کے مطابق ان کی تنخواہ سے تب تک وصول کیا جاتا رہے جب تک کہ وہ سارا روپیہ جو ان پر خرچ کیا گیا ہو وصول ہو جائے - اگر کوئی ایسی اسکیم نہیں ہے تو کیوں ؟

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I know whether Government have got any such scheme under which the total amount, that has been spent over the education of those scholars who have since returned after receiving their training abroad and have been provided with jobs, could be recovered from their salaries on some percentage basis till such time the entire amount is repaid. If not, why not?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : نہیں - اسکیم میں ایسی کوئی شرط نہیں رکھی گئی تھی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No. No such condition had been laid down in the scheme.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: At least the Honourable Minister might give the figures in English so that we may be able to follow him.

श्रीमती जी० दुर्गाबाई : क्या मैं जान सकती हूँ कि खाली ट्रेनिंग दिलवाने के सिवाय सरकार उन सब को काम पर लगवाने की जिम्मेदारी भी उठाती है ?

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether, besides arranging for their training, Government also take upon themselves the responsibility to provide them with jobs?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : سرکار یہی کوشش کرتی ہے انہیں کام پر لگایا جائے اور بری تعداد لگائی گئی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government do their best to provide them with employment and a large number have been employed.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या वह ही विषय पढ़ाने के लिये यह विद्यार्थी बाहर भेजे जाने हैं. जिनकी कि तालीम हिन्दुस्तान में नहीं मिल सकती? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे कौन से विषय हैं जो यहां पर नहीं पढ़ाये जाने और जिनके लिये उनको बाहर भेजा जाना है ।

Seth Govind Das: Are these scholars sent abroad for receiving education in those subjects for the teaching of which no arrangements exist in India? I would like to know what are those subjects in which training cannot be imparted here and for which they are sent abroad?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : آنریبل ممبر کو یہ معلوم ہے کہ یہ پرانی سکیم کے ماتحت بھیجے گئے ہیں - پرانی سکیم میں اگر کچھ خرابیاں ہیں تو اسکی ذمہ داری موجودہ گورنمنٹ نہیں لے سکتی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Honourable Member is aware that they were sent under the old scheme. The present Government are not responsible for any of the defects that existed in the old scheme.

श्री एच० जे० खांडेकर : क्या मैं यह पूछ सकता हूँ कि जो लोग एग्रीकलचर ट्रेनिंग हासिल करने के बाद हिन्दुस्तान वापिस आये हैं, उनमें से कितने लोगों को अभी तक सरकारी नौकरी नहीं मिली है ?

Shri H. J. Khandekar: May I know what is the number of those scholars who have since returned to India after receiving education in Agriculture and have not as yet been provided with Government jobs?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ میں ابھی نہیں بتا سکتا - اس کے لئے نوٹس چاہیئے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot say this at the moment. I would like to have a notice of it.

श्री एच. जे. खंडेकर : क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि सी० पी० से दो हरिजन लड़के एग्रीकल्चर की ट्रेनिंग के लिये भेजे गये थे, उनको अभी नौकरी नहीं दी गई?

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Are Government aware that the two Harijan scholars from C.P. who were sent for receiving education in Agriculture have not as yet been provided with any employment?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جب تک تفصیلات معلوم نہ ہوں - کچھ نہیں کہا جا سکتا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot say anything unless details are made available.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: How many of these students belong to the scheduled castes?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ میں ابھی نہیں بتا سکتا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot say this just now.

श्री महावीर त्यागी : क्या यह सब लोग नौकरी के लिये पढ़ाये गये हैं?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have all these persons been given training for the sake of employment?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ کچھ ضروری نہیں ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It is not necessarily so.

चौधरी रणवीर सिंह : क्या मन्त्री महोदय को यह पता है कि जिन नौकरियों के लिये तालीम हासिल करने के लिये यह लोग बाहर भेजे गये हैं, वह नौकरियां छः महीने पहिले ही पूर की गई हैं ?

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that all those posts for which these persons were sent to receive training have already been filled up six months ago?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس طرح کا کوئی کیس گورنمنٹ کے سامنے نہیں آیا ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No such case has come to the notice of Government.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is any undertaking taken from the scholars, who are sent overseas for training in technical subjects, to the effect that they will serve the Government after return.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ شرط رکھی گئی ہے - مگر اس کے ساتھ یہ بھی ہے - کہ اگر تین مہینے تک کام پر نہیں لگا دیئے گئے تو پھر وہ آزاد ہونگے - کہ جو غیر سرکاری ملازمت انہیں ملے - اختیار کرلیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This condition has been prescribed. But along with this, provision has been made that in case they are not provided with service within a period of three months, they would be permitted to undertake any private employment that they might secure.

PERSONS DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL

***227. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are at present detained without trial by Government;

(b) the grounds on which they are so detained; and

(c) whether it is proposed to prosecute any of them?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The number of persons in detention in the Chief Commissioners' provinces is only ten.

(b) For activities prejudicial to the public safety or maintenance of public order.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Of these detainees how many are members of the Communist Party of India and how many are non-Communists?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: They are all members of that party.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there anyone among them who was a member of the Union of Posts and Telegraphs workers and who was arrested before the strike notice was withdrawn but still detained though the strike never came off?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If the Honourable Member gives me the name of any detenu for whom he wants particular information I will make enquiries.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Is there any classification among these political detainees?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no classification.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: May I know how much is being paid to these detainees?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As much as they deserve.

MIR LAIK ALI

***228. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation against Mir Laik Ali, formerly of the Government of the Nizam of Hyderabad is still in progress;

(b) whether any charges against the colleagues of Mir Laik Ali are also under investigation;

(c) if so, the names of such of his colleagues; and

(d) when Mir Laik Ali and his colleagues are expected to be put on trial?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Nawab Fazal Nawaz Jung, Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan, Mr. Abdur Rauf, Mr. Abdur Rahim, Mr. Yamin Zuberi, Mr. Pingle Venkatrama Reddy, Mr. B. S. Venkat Rao and Mr. Raja Mohanlal.

(d) This will depend on the result of the investigations which are in progress.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When will this investigation be concluded?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is very difficult to say when the investigation will be concluded, but all efforts are being made to expedite the inquiry.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Is Mr. B. S. Venkat Rao still in jail or is he at his place?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I think he is under house arrest.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are all of them—Mir Laik Ali and the others—under house arrest?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes, they are all under house arrest.

CURRENCY NOTES

***229. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of currency notes issued by the Reserve Bank, and the percentage of their backing in gold; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been an addition in the issue of currency notes in the year 1948-49, and if so, of what amount, and what percentage of gold reserve there is in respect of this additional issue?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The total issue of currency notes as on the 25th November, 1949 amounted to Rs. 1109.43 crores. The gold held against this issue amounted to Rs. 40.02 crores, the ratio of gold to total note issue being thus 3.606 per cent.

(b) There has been an addition of about Rs. 5 crores during 1948-49. This addition has been made against assets other than gold.

Seth Govind Das: May I know whether the percentage of the gold which is now kept in the Reserve Bank is the same as it was before or whether it has come down?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Under the Reserve Bank Act there is a certain minimum holding of gold that we have got to maintain as security against notes, namely, Rs. 40 crores worth of gold. That position is maintained.

Seth Govind Das: May I take it that in the matter of the sale of gold which is being made by the Reserve Bank, particular care is taken to see that that percentage is maintained?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: What we do is to see that the provisions of the Reserve Bank Act are properly complied with.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the gold holding in the Reserve Bank has been revalued after devaluation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, Sir.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: The Honourable Minister mentioned securities other than gold security. May I know the nature of those other securities?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The reserve against our currency issue consists of gold, of sterling securities, of rupee securities and of rupee coins.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know the respective quantities of these various securities and what ratio they hold to each other?

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I can give the Honourable Member the information required, but if he would care to read the Weekly Statements issued by the Reserve Bank of India he will get all this information.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How much worth of gold is kept as security?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Rs. 40 crores.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: May I know at what rate this gold is valued—whether it is at pre-war rates or at the rates prevailing at any subsequent dates?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The gold is valued at the rate prescribed in the Reserve Bank Act which, I think, works out to Rs. 21-3-0 per tola.

DELEGATIONS

***230. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the Government of India on account of delegations, commissions, goodwill missions and persons sent to visit foreign countries by Government during the years 1947-48 and 1948-49;

(b) the total expenditure debited to the Government of India on account of inviting foreign bodies, foreign delegations, commissions and persons to India for Government work; and

(c) whether any financial sanction is previously obtained by the Ministry of External Affairs before incurring new expenditure referred to in parts (a) and (b) above?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The total expenditure incurred is as follows:

1947-48	Rs. 21,46,000
1948-49	Rs. 25,43,000

(b) The total expenditure incurred is:

1947-48	Rs. 5,36,000
1948-49	Rs. 8,75,000

(c) Previous financial sanction is obtained from the Ministry of Finance before such expenditure is incurred.

Seth Govind Das: May I take it that it is the policy of the Government to send these delegations now only to those places or to those countries where our Embassies do not exist?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That really is a matter for the External Affairs Ministry to answer. As far as I am concerned, from the purely financial point of view we are taking very strict measures to see that the expenditure on these delegations is kept down to the lowest possible level.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Will the Government see that such curtailment does not result in the isolation of India from world affairs?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That, I take it, is a point which the Honourable the Prime Minister keeps in view.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister what arrangements are made to audit the accounts of these delegations, whether the audit takes place here or by any officer with the High Commissioner in London?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Of course it is under the direction of the Auditor General, but we are proposing to tighten our measures for the audit of these accounts as the Honourable Member knows.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the Secretary of the Finance Ministry who has been sent abroad to study the question of expenditure in Embassies has made any report regarding the expenditure incurred by them, how much of it can be curtailed and in what manner the personnel in the Embassies can be utilised as subordinate officers, etc.?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Secretary of the Finance Ministry went to London and to Washington to examine particularly the question of the control of expenditure. As regards the question of auditing, as far as I am in a position to inform the House, the Auditor-General, I think, still has an idea of making a personal visit to some of our principal Embassies in order to see that the measures for audit are satisfactory.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Secretary made any report?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not any formal report.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With reference to part (a) of the question, what exactly is meant by "persons sent", apart from "delegations, commissions and goodwill missions"? Is there any separate category like that?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That enquiry should be addressed to the questioner.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: Is it not a fact that Government allow certain deputations to visit countries other than those they are expected to visit?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If there is any official business in those countries of an urgent character I think they sometimes do.

HYDERABAD POLICE ACTION

***231. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state the amount of total expenditure incurred in the Hyderabad Police action and the steps the Government of India have taken to debit the amount to the Government of Hyderabad?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The information is still being compiled and I regret it will not be complete for some time.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि कितने दिनों के अन्दर इसका पता लग जायगा, और क्या हाउस के इस सेशन के पहले मिनिस्टर साहब इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ कह सकेंगे ?

Seth Govind Das: May I know how many days it will take to make this information available and will it be possible for the Honourable Minister to place it before the House before the close of this Session?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: In this session? I don't think so. It will take some time.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Apart from the question of collecting the amount, what exactly is the policy? Is the amount to be debited to the account of the Hyderabad Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of course the amount will be recovered from the Hyderabad State.

REHABILITATION IN THE ANDAMANS

***232. Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families sent to the Andamans for the purpose of rehabilitation;

(b) the number that have so far been actually settled there;

(c) the average area of land allotted and the pecuniary help and other facilities given to each family;

(d) the total land reclaimed by the recent settlers; and

(e) the occupations taken up by the settlers with number for each of those?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 199.

(b) 187.

(c) (i) About ten acres per family up to the end of September 1949, (ii) A copy of a statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House.

(d) About 610 acres up to the end of September, 1949.

(e) One hundred and seventy six families are cultivators; seven are artisans; one confectioner, one compounder and two do not belong to any particular category.

STATEMENT

(i) free passage with board from Calcutta to Port Blair;

(ii) ten acres of land free of cost, with remission of land revenue for the first two years;

(iii) a grant of Rs. 30 to every adult member and Rs. 15 for each child, subject to a maximum of Rs. 100 per month per family for a period of 9 months from the date of dis-embarkation at Port Blair;

(iv) grant of two buffaloes as plough cattle and one she-buffalo as milk cattle;

(v) grant of seed paddy, agricultural implements and manure free of cost;

(vi) artisans and non-agriculturists were given half an acre of land for construction of houses and financial assistance as admissible to agriculturists for a period of 3 months; and

(vii) all families are to be given sufficient building material free of cost.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Do these persons enter into any contract before they are sent to the Islands?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no contract.

Sardar Bhopindar Singh Man: Do the Government keep in view the size of the family at the time of allotment of this ten acres of land, or is it a fixed and a flat scale?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Generally this is the rule but if any family is of a smaller size perhaps they will take less land but if it is larger they can ask for more. There is no particular bar but this is the average fixed at present.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is this scheme open to all refugees if they are willing to go to the Andamans?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is a scheme initiated at the instance of the West Bengal Government. There has been no demand from any other Province.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Is there any report about the health of the people who are there?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Fairly good health.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does Government propose to promote the growth of any industries, cottage or otherwise, apart from agriculture in these Islands?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Not through the refugees.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if the convict population is still there?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, no. There is no convict population there and we don't intend to have any convict population there.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there a general proposal to colonise the Andaman Islands and as a part of that proposal to invite various people there? Is there such a scheme under the consideration of the Agriculture or Home Affairs Ministry?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That is a question for the Agriculture Ministry.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about the Home Affairs Ministry?

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: What is the total number of families that may possibly be colonised in the Andamans?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot say what is the possibility as regards the number of people that could be settled there but there is plenty of scope at present.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the old cellular jail used for nowadays?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no experience of the old cellular jail.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is it used for now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Most of the cells were dilapidated and practically razed to the ground. Some of them are used by the refugees also.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Is the Government maintaining any additional staff there for the rehabilitation of these refugees?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The necessary staff is kept.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What kind of diseases are prevalent in these Islands, and is there adequate medical staff for treating those diseases?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Normally all the diseases are there.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether any evacuee is free to come away at Government expense when he is willing to come back?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If any person wants to come back, of course he is free to come back. If Government finds it necessary to provide for facilities, they will.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: What is the defence arrangement for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in case of war?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Same defence arrangements as for the whole of India. No special arrangements are necessary.

MILITARY STORES

*233. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that military stores are kept in the open at army depots all over India?

(b) What is the total loss reported, by damage and waste, due to the goods lying in the open?

(c) What is the total loss reported by way of thefts due to the goods lying insufficiently protected?

(d) What steps are Government taking to avoid this loss?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) It is a fact that certain military stores are kept in the open at Army Depots for want of covered accommodation.

(b) and (c). It is regretted that no estimate of losses on account of stores lying out in the open or insufficiently protected can be given. Losses are usually due to a combination of causes.

(d) Steps are being taken to build the accommodation required as quickly as financial and material limitations will allow. Till adequate permanent accommodation is built Lahore Sheds and similar temporary constructions are being erected as far as possible. Steps are being taken to re-organise existing storage accommodation with a view to bringing the maximum quantity of stores possible under the existing covered accommodation. Where stores have to be left out in the open unavoidably, cover is provided by means of tents and tarpaulins or *chappars*. Perishable stores are given preference for covered accommodation and other stores kept in the open are stacked in such a way as to reduce the risk of damage to a minimum. Security precautions including such measures as perimeter lighting and fencing are being taken.

CHHATTISGARH STATES

*234. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether Government of India have received any appeals against the decisions of the Provincial Government from the employees of Chhattisgarh States in connection with pay, pension, leave etc.?

(b) If so, what decision have Government taken in respect of the said appeals?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

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

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Is it a fact that the Government of India has given instructions to Provincial Governments to see that no State employees suffer any economic loss as a result of the merger?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well, as far as possible no State employee has any reason to complain and we have taken precautions for that.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it not a fact that many persons have been either reduced or victimised by succeeding administrations in some cases?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is not true.

* 235. [WITHDRAWN]

NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY

†*236. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what are the special features of the National Defence Academy at Khadakvasla?

(b) When is it expected to start functioning?

(c) What is the number of officers likely to be trained every year?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The National Defence Academy which is being built at Khadakvasla will be unique in that combined training will be imparted to the potential officers of all the three Defence Services at the same institution.

(b) By about 1954.

(c) Five hundred.

EASTERN HIGHER TECHNICAL INSTITUTION

†*237. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state as to when the Eastern Higher Technical Institution will start functioning?

(b) Has the selection of the senior staff for this Institution been made?

(c) What will be the number of students trained annually and what are the subjects for study?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The present financial stringency has affected almost all our activities. Nevertheless Government hope that the Institution will start functioning about August 1950.

(b) Most of the senior professors for the Institution have been selected and the incumbents are expected to join by February, 1950.

(c) The Institution will ultimately provide facilities for 2,000 undergraduates and 1,000 post-graduate students and research workers. The subjects for study are given in statement which is placed on the Table of the House.

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

STATEMENT

Under-graduate courses.—Aeronautical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil and Sanitary Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Architecture (Building Construction and Town Planning), Metallurgy, Botany, Meteorology and Geology and Geophysics.

Post-graduate courses.—Fuel Technology, Pharmaceuticals and Fine Chemicals, Regional Planning, Paper Technology, Glass and Ceramics, Plastics, Paints and Pigments, Hydraulic and River Research, Transportation (including Railway Engineering), Structural Engineering (including High Dams), Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning, Design of Electrical Machinery, Automobile Engineering, Machine Tools, Design of machinery and Instruments, Light alloys, Industrial Physics, Electronics (including radio engineering), Economic Botany, Geophysics, Geology, Mineralogy, Meteorology and Food Technology.

ADULTERATION

†*238. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state what steps have Government taken to prevent adulteration of (i) foodstuffs, (ii) drugs, and (iii) patent medicines?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): The position is as follows:

(i) Adulteration of foodstuffs is a Provincial subject. Provincial Governments and Local Administrations have their own Acts for the prevention of adulteration of food and they are expected to enforce the laws. The Central Government have been impressing on the Provinces and Local Administrations from time to time the necessity of more vigorous enforcement of the existing Acts to combat the evil of adulteration of foodstuffs.

(ii) The Drugs Act, 1940 and the Rules made thereunder lay down Standards of quality for Drugs and provide punishment for the manufacture or sale of drugs which are not of Standard quality. Inspectors and Government Analysts have been appointed under the Drugs Act by Provincial Governments and one of the principal duties of these officers is to prevent the manufacture and sale of adulterated drugs.

(iii) The Drugs Act, 1940 and the Drugs Rules, contain provisions according to which the manufacturers of patent medicines have either to indicate the composition of the medicines on the label of the container or get the patent medicine registered at the Central Drugs Laboratory after disclosing the true formula of the medicine to the Director of the Laboratory. It is an offence to sell a patent medicine which does not conform to the formula exhibited on the label or disclosed to the Central Drugs Laboratory.

INTERVIEWS BY F.P.S.C.

*239. **Shri Arun Chandra Guha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of posts for which the Federal Public Service Commission has called candidates for interview during the year 1949?

(b) What is the amount received as fees from the applicants and what is the amount spent on travelling expenses of the candidates called for interview?

(c) How many of these posts, have been filled up by men in Government service, how many by outsiders and how many have not yet been filled up?

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

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 854, upto the 15th October 1949.

(b) Rs. 81,204-2-0 as fees; and Rs. 2,26,122-12-6 on travelling expenses.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when it is completed.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Does this number include the persons recently recruited to the I.P. and I.A.S.?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: How many of them are Harijans?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I must have notice for that question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Among these persons are there any Indians who were living in foreign countries like England and America and were called here for interview and were paid travelling allowance for that purpose?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no information on the subject.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

NON-SECURITY ITEMS

***240. Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are still adhering to and insisting on the old Defence Specifications for non-security items, purchased from foreign countries?

(b) What are the figures of import of the various non-security items from the years 1937 to 1948?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to change the specifications and meet the complete requirements of the non-security items from indigenous sources?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (c). Specifications of all stores and equipment are reviewed periodically in the light of actual experience. Old specifications are being relaxed in order to obtain supplies through indigenous sources, provided such relaxation does not affect the efficiency and operational needs of the Services.

(b) The information is not readily available and can only be collected at the cost of extremely disproportionate expenditure of time and labour.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE

***241. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state when the Environmental Hygiene Committee started its work and what places has the Committee visited?

(b) What is the financial provision for the Committee and how much money has been spent so far?

(c) What are the terms of reference of the Committee?

(d) What achievements, if any, has the Committee made?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) The Committee started work on the 25th June 1948. A list of the places visited by the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 3.)

(b) No specific budget provision for the Committee was made but an expenditure of about Rs. 50,400 has been incurred and it is proposed to meet it by re-appropriation.

(c) A statement containing the terms of reference of the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 4.)

(d) The Committee has just submitted a report to Government.

ECONOMY

***242. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether in view of the pressing need for economy the question of reducing the strength of staffs of Private Secretaries, Assistant Private Secretaries, Personal Assistants and similar officers attached to the Ministers, and Secretaries, in the Government of India, to that of the pre-15th August, 1947 period has been considered, and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This is one of the questions which is now engaging the attention of Government in connection with the general scheme of reorganisation of the machinery of Government.

DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT WORK

***243. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what action Government propose to take to insure that all references from the public including the members of the Constituent Assembly addressed to the Ministers and Government departments are attended to promptly, and in cases where disposal is likely to take some time, acknowledge receipt of such references as an interim action?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Government have no reason to believe that communications from non-official bodies or individuals are not attended to with due expedition. They have already issued instructions that such communications as call for a reply should be acknowledged on receipt. If any specific case of unreasonable delay occurs and is brought to the notice of the Minister concerned, I am sure it will be carefully investigated.

RETIREMENT OF OFFICERS

***244. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of officers in the Government of India who have attained the age of superannuation to date since the 15th August, 1947;

(b) the total number of those who were granted extensions showing the period for which extension was granted; and

(c) the total number of those who were actually retired?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES

***245. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names of the Centrally administered areas in which Honorary Magistrates are still appointed, with the number of such Magistrates functioning in each of them?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Delhi 8, Ajmer-Merwara 16, Coorg 35, and Bhopal 9.

POOL AND NON-POOL OFFICERS

***246. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bajpai Committee appointed by the Government in connection with the Reorganisation of the Central Secretariat recommended that the distinction between a pool and non-pool officer should be abolished and the Secretariat should be manned only by experienced officers? If so, what steps have Government taken to abolish the pool; and

(b) whether it is a fact that on account of this pool many junior officers got jump in their promotion, and their seniors in service or cadre are still working in junior grades?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) No.

FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS

***247. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Government of India on foreign scholarships of all kinds in the years 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48 and up to the end of October 1949;

(b) how much of this amount was spent on scholars belonging to the Scheduled Castes;

(c) what provision exists for foreign scholarships for Scheduled Castes during the current year;

(d) what is the total provision for foreign scholarships of all kinds for 1948-49 and 1949-50; and

(e) how much of this is likely to be spent in the course of the current year?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Approximately a sum of rupees one crore and twenty two lakhs only has been incurred on foreign scholarships of all kinds during the period in question. A statement showing the details yearwise is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 5.)

(b) Rupees six and a half lakhs approximately.

(c) Under the terms governing the grant of foreign scholarships, no part of the provision is to be set apart for any particular group or community.

(d) Rupees forty-eight lakhs only approximately.

(e) Rupees seventeen and a half lakhs only approximately.

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

***248. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the hour in the morning when broadcasts on the various radio stations in India start;

(b) the total number of hours during which broadcasting is undertaken by the various stations in India;

(c) the period of time spent on broadcasts in English out of the above at each of the stations; and

(d) the time spent on English music?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 6.)

FEDERAL COURT (CASES)

***249. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases, both original and appellate, pending before the Federal Court as on the 1st October, 1949 with the dates of the three oldest cases; and

(b) the number of cases, both original and appellate, transferred or shortly to be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Federal Court from His Majesty's Privy Council in London?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Ninety-eight. The three oldest cases were filed in 1948, on the 17th March, 28th April and 24th May.

(b) About fifty.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

***250. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the position of our sterling balances with the Bank of England as at the end of October, 1949, and the amount of Sterling Balances liquidated during the period commencing from April, 1949 up to date and also the specific purpose for which the amount was utilised?

(b) What was the total cost of imports from and exports to the soft and hard currency areas from 1st April, 1949 up to the present day?

(c) What were the dollar earnings made by India from month to month during this period and the causes of decrease, if any?

(d) What was the total cost of consumer goods and capital goods imported separately from soft and hard currency areas and the percentage of imports of capital goods to the total imports?

(e) What was the total value of motor cars, buses, trucks and other luxury goods like toilets, perfumery, oils, etc. imported separately from the hard currency and soft currency areas?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Our Sterling Balances which stood at Rs. 921 crores on the 1st of April 1949 had declined to Rs. 789 crores at the end of October 1949. The amount liquidated during this period was therefore Rs. 132 crores. This amount was used to meet India's overall balance of payments deficit.

(b) Figures are available at present only for the period April to August 1949. According to the Sea-borne Trade Accounts, the total value of imports during this period, from the soft currency areas and the hard currency areas was Rs. 215.30 crores and Rs. 60.95 crores respectively. The value of exports to these areas during the same period was Rs. 114.7 crores and Rs. 35.6 crores respectively.

(c) A statement containing the information is placed on the Table. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 7.)

(d) The Sea-borne Trade Accounts do not classify imports according to consumer and capital goods, and it is not, therefore possible to give separate figures of imports of capital and consumer goods. Imports of plant and machinery,

which constitute the bulk of capital goods, were valued at Rs. 10.81 crores from hard currency areas and Rs. 29.05 crores from soft currency areas respectively, during the five months from April 1949 to August 1949. The percentages of imports of plant and machinery to the total imports are 17.7 and 13.5 for hard and soft currency areas respectively.

(e) It is not correct to say that all motor cars, buses and trucks, and oils are luxury goods, for instance a large proportion of cars, buses and trucks are used directly for industrial and developmental purposes and Government give due consideration to this fact in fixing the import programme from time to time. The total value of such of these items as is available from the Seaborne Trade Accounts is set out in the Statement, which also I lay on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 8.)

PRIVATE PROPERTY OF RULERS

*251. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state what principle has been followed in determining the private property of Rulers and has this principle been deviated from in some cases? If so, to what extent and for what reasons?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I propose shortly to lay on the Table of the House a White Paper dealing, *inter alia*, with this question. I would request the honourable Member to await the White Paper.

ADULT LITERACY

*252. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of adult literates as compared with the total number of adults, who will be eligible for voting in the next elections;

(b) the steps the Government of India are taking for a drive towards adult literacy and the date by which it is expected to make every adult literate in the country; and

(c) whether the total expenditure on adult literacy drive will be borne by the Centre or the Provinces or by both the Governments, and if so, in what proportion?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The approximate number of adults who will be eligible for voting in 1950-51 elections will be 18.67 crores in India (including States). Of these about 1.87 crores will be literates.

(b) In consultation with the Provincial Governments this Ministry decided to make every adult literate in the course of ten years. With this end in view a Guide Scheme was prepared and the Provincial Governments requested to have their first-five year programme of Social Education in order to achieve 50 per cent. of literacy in accordance with it. All the Provincial Governments have accordingly prepared their schemes and have made a start on them.

(c) The total expenditure on Adult Literacy Drive will be borne both by the Provinces and the Centre on 50 : 50 basis.

In view of the financial stringency it cannot be said if it would be possible for Government to adhere to the above programme. If the required amount is not available, it is obvious the programme will have to be delayed. A sum of Rs. 1 crore was sanctioned in the current financial year for Social Education but as the result of Government's drive for economy in expenditure, a portion of this amount has to be surrendered. This means that even this small amount could not be provided by the Central Government.

DOLLAR INVESTMENTS IN INDIA

*253. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India's attention has been drawn to the statement made by Mr. John Snyder, United States Secretary of the Treasury, on the eve of the Anglo-Canadian-American Dollar talks about the conditions for flow of American capital into foreign under-developed countries;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter of attracting American investments into India; and

(c) whether Government have started any negotiations with the Government of the United States in this matter, and if so, with what results?

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

(b) I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the Government of India's statement on Industrial Policy dated 6th April, 1948, and the Honourable the Prime Minister's statement on the participation of foreign capital in Indian industries made in Parliament on 6th April, 1949. Government consider that these two statements adequately cover the points made by Mr. Snyder. At the same time they will continue the policy of examining, in individual cases, any further points which may need clarification.

(c) Yes. It had been suggested by the United States that the existence of a proper treaty relationship between the two countries would help in the investment of American capital in India and there have been discussions between the representatives of the Government of India and the Government of the United States at the technical level on the draft of a Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation with a view to exploring the scope and contents of such a Treaty. No final conclusions have been reached and the negotiations are continuing.

PROVINCIAL LOAN FUND

*254. Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the present state of the Provincial Loan Fund in respect of (i) the total amounts advanced to various Provinces and the respective rates of interest charged from them; (ii) the balance in hand; and (iii) the total amount of the pending demands by the various Provinces and States?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Provincial Loans Fund was closed down with effect from the 1st April 1936 and loans are now given by the Government of India direct to the Provinces and States as and when necessary. A statement showing the outstanding loans made to the various Provinces and the rate of interest charged on them is laid on the Table. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 9.)

SERAIKELLA AND KHARSWAN STATES

*255. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether the Government of India have ascertained the opinion of the people regarding the merger of Seraikella and Kharswan States in Bihar?

(b) What is their policy in merging these Orissa States in Bihar?

(c) What remedy have the Government in view to protect the cultural, economic and political interest of the Oriyas in Seraikella and Kharswan?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Press Communiqué issued by Government of India, Ministry of States on 18th May, 1948.

(c) The good sense of the Government and the people of the Province including the Oriyas.

REPORTS REGISTERED IN POLICE POSTS

***256. Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of reports registered in each of the various police posts in the province of Delhi from 1st January to 31st October 1949;

(b) the total number of reports out of those referred to in part (a) above which pertains to police personnel; and

(c) the number of cases separately wherein no action was taken on those referred to in parts (a) and (b) above?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 10.)

(b) Thirty-two.

(c) Nil.

RAM MOHAN PALACE

***257. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are intending to acquire the building known as Ram Mohan Palace at Ernakulam, in which the Travancore-Cochin High Court is housed, for purposes of the Royal Indian Navy?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No.

OPIUM MANUFACTURE

***258.** { **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:**
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the present income of the Government of India from internal consumption of opium and from export thereof?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No income is derived from internal consumption as sales of opium to the Provinces and States are made on a no profit no loss basis.

As regards exports, a profit of Rs. 4,95,000 accrued during the year 1948.

FUNDS FOR COMMODITY CESS COMMITTEE

***259. Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the procedure being adopted to sanction funds to Commodity Cess Committees in accordance with the resolutions of the Finance Sub-Committees?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The procedure for sanctioning funds for Commodity Cess Committees is laid down in the rules framed under the relevant Acts constituting such Committees. Copies of the Acts and the rules framed thereunder are available in the library of the House.

The administration of these Acts rests with the Ministry of Agriculture.

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE ON BUILDINGS

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

(a) whether any efforts have been made or are being made to cut down the Defence expenditure on the construction of permanent buildings for the residence of Defence personnel in consequence of the economy drive; and

(b) if so, with what financial results?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is doubtless aware that the partition of the country left India with only 1/3rd of the permanent military accommodation in undivided India. In the case of the Navy and the Air Force, the accommodation available was extremely limited, considering that these two Services needed rapid expansion. Full use is being made of temporary accommodation constructed during the war. Planning for the reconstruction of the accommodation which is essential must, however, of necessity go ahead. The scrutiny of works projects during the year 1949-50 in the light of the economy drive has resulted in expenditure of nearly Rs. 297 lakhs being postponed in the capital works grant for the year 1949-50.

RAILWAY AUDIT ACCOUNTANTS

***261. Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government have now decided to introduce a unified scale of pay for the Accountants in the Railway Audit Department?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

PROSECUTIONS BY SPECIAL POLICE

***262. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of persons prosecuted in Delhi by the Special Police Establishment under the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the number of cases resulting in convictions therefrom from 1st January, 1949 upto date?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

CHIEF COMMISSIONERS

8. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names, qualifications, experience and salaries including allowances of the present Chief Commissioners of the Centrally Administered Areas, in the country?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: A statement containing the required information is placed on the Table. (See Appendix VII, annexure No. 11.)

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

AIR CRASH IN CALCUTTA

Shri R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether two Royal Indian Air Force aircrafts collided in mid-air over Calcutta on the 16th November, 1949 and fell in the heart of the city killing and injuring several people?

(b) If so, what is the total number of casualties and what is the condition of the injured persons?

(c) What was the cause of the collision?

(d) Was the movement of both the aircrafts notified by the Signal Tower from the Calcutta Aerodrome? If so, with what result?

(e) Were the pilots amateurs or fully trained?

(f) What action have Government taken in this matter?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes, an air crash occurred in Calcutta on November 16th.

(b) The casualties are—eight killed including the pilot of one plane, and thirteen seriously injured. Twenty persons who sustained minor injuries have since been discharged from hospitals.

(c) Six aircraft were flying in formation when one of them accidentally hit a vulture and then collided against the aircraft next to it, resulting in the crash.

(d) The aircraft were on their way to Kumbhigram in Assam, and the Calcutta Aerodrome had signalled the Kumbhigram Aerodrome.

(e) All the pilots were fully trained.

(f) Government have appointed two Courts of Enquiry—one to enquire into the reasons for the crash and damage to aircraft, etc., and the second to go into the question of loss of life among members of the public and damage caused to private property. The members of the second Court include an engineer officer and a representative of the West Bengal Government. Any special instructions or orders for the future will be issued by Government in the light of the reports of the two Courts of Enquiry.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the result of that enquiry will be available to this House when it is ready?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is a purely Departmental enquiry, but if Honourable Members are interested and if it is in the public interest, then perhaps it may be made available to Honourable Members.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Out of the thirteen persons who were seriously injured, may I know what is their present condition?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got that information.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्रीजी को यह बात मालूम है कि इन दिनों में इस तरह के एक्सीडेंट्स बहुत हो रहे हैं और अभी हाल में एक एक्सीडेंट इलाहाबाद में हुआ, जहाँ कायस्थ पाठशाला कालेज से एक एरोप्लेन भिड़ा। इस सम्बन्ध में गवर्नमेंट क्या कर रही है जिससे कि इस तरह के एक्सीडेंट्स बचाये जा सकें जो आजकल बहुत ज़यादा हो रहे हैं।

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Minister aware that many such accidents are taking place these days, one such has recently been at Allahabad, where one aeroplane collided against the building of Kayestha Pathshala College? What measures are Government taking in this connection to prevent such accidents which are very frequent now-a-days?

آنریبل سردار بلدیو سنگھ : پیچھے دنوں میں ایکسیڈنٹس ہو رہے ہیں - لیکن آنریبل میمبر صاحب نے الہ آباد کے متعلق جو ذکر کیا ہے اس کا ایئر فورس سے کوئی تعلق نہیں ہے - وہ سول ایوییشن کا تھا -

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Accidents have taken place during the last few days, but the Allahabad accident to which the Honourable Member has referred has got no connection with the Air Force. That belonged to the Civil Aviation.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How much time was taken to clear the wreckage of the plane? Were many days taken?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got that information.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any truth in the Press Report that the owner of the site made money out of this accident by levying a charge of one anna or two annas on the visitors who came to see the wreckage of the plane? Did he make death pay a dividend to him?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any buildings were damaged due to the fall of these aircrafts and if so, what is the damage?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Slight damage was done to the buildings and the Enquiry Committee have it in one of their terms of reference to report on the damage done to buildings.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it Government's intention to pay compensation for the loss of property and life caused on account of this accident?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Not as a rule, but if it is found from enquiries that some kind of compensation is to be given, the matter will be considered.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know whether any compensation will be paid or not to the families of those who have died and to those who have received serious injuries?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I said not as a rule, but during the last war, in such accidents the claim for compensation has been admitted and it is very difficult for me to say straightaway whether compensation in this case will be paid or not. It will be examined on the receipt of the report of the enquiry committee.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Monday, 5th December, 1949

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

DECLARATION

The following Member made the Declaration under Rule 4:

Mr. Mohammad Ahmad Kazmi (U. P. Muslim).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

DRINKING WATER AT RAILWAY STATIONS

***263. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether cold drinking water is available at Delhi Station on payment of one pice per glass?

(b) Is it a fact that ice water is distributed free of charge by Railway authorities at various stations during summer season?

(c) What are the duties of the Railway authorities regarding distribution of cold drinking water to passengers?

(d) Has the consent of the Local Advisory Committee of East Punjab Railway been taken for charging one pice per glass for supplying water?

(e) What is the total amount derived from this sale of water and what is the expenditure per day?

(f) Is the supply of this cold water financed by Government or by contractors?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Yes, electrically cooled water is supplied at one pice per glass, in addition to the usual free supply of drinking water.

(b) No. Only water cooled in earthen vessels is distributed at various stations free of charge during summer season or throughout the year as may be deemed necessary.

(c) The supply of drinking water is one of the amenities provided by Railway Administrations to travelling passengers.

(d) Yes.

(e) The total amount derived from the sale of ice water at Delhi main station from 1st May, 1949 to 15th October, 1949 was Rs. 6,834/11/-, i.e. about Rs. 41 per day and the expenditure per day was Rs. 28 approximately. The profits are being applied to improving and extending this service.

(f) The supply of this cold water is financed by Government.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether at any time in the past Government have charged the passengers for the supply of drinking water?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: In the past no electrically cooled water was supplied anywhere.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Was ice water supplied free of charge or not?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Only water cooled in pots used to be supplied.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Has the Honourable Minister seen in the N. W. Railway that water in pots with ice put in them has been supplied?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Water cooled in pots has been supplied and is being supplied at many stations. So far as I know, no electrically cooled water was supplied before this.

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: Do Government propose to have similar schemes on different Railways?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: We are contemplating the extension of this system on other Railways also.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Do Government continue the practice of supplying cold water in this cold season also?

Mr. Speaker: I am not allowing that question.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: I heard the Honourable Minister saying that the profits are being used for increasing the amenities. May I know the system that is being adopted and the kind of amenities that are being provided from the profits?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: From one platform we are putting cooling machines in other platforms and we are putting the same machines in other stations also.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Is it a fact that vendors are appointed to sell water described as 'Hindu water'?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: There is no such discrimination anywhere in the Railways at present.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know if a Betterment Fund exists for giving amenities to the public and if it is so, why should the public be charged for supply of electrically cooled water and why should it not be supplied free of charge from that Fund?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I may explain that the charge for electrically cooled water is for the benefit of the passengers. The charge ensures that the limited amount of water available is not wasted and that it is not used indiscriminately by the large number of porters and other station staff. This charge is also for providing adequate staff to keep the water clean and make the distribution easy for passengers. This system was introduced for that purpose, not from any profit-making motive. Otherwise, passengers may not get as much water or water in such a sanitary fashion as they are getting at present.

DEVELOPMENT OF KANDLA AS A MAJOR PORT

*264. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have appointed a Committee to go into the question of water supply position in Cutch in view of the development of Kandla as a major port?

(b) If so, what is the name of the Committee and has their report been received?

(c) What will be the total cost of such a scheme?

(d) What will be the total supply of water daily to Kandla?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Yes.

(b) The name of the Committee is the Kandla Water Supply Committee. An advance copy of their report has been received.

(c) The cost of any scheme of water supply depends upon the population which it is intended to serve. In the case of Kandla it will, in the first instance, be necessary to provide for a population of about 50,000 persons. Provision will also have to be made for the growth of population in the future as a result of development. While it is estimated that the cost of the arrangements for supplying the immediate requirements may not exceed Rs. 20 lakhs, firm estimates have not been worked out. It is also not possible at this stage to give any estimates for the cost of the long range schemes.

(d) The immediate requirements for the next two years during the stage of development will be about 2.5 million gallons for a day on the basis of an estimated consumption of 50 gallons of water per head per day of population, including the needs of industry and bulk users. The Committee is of the opinion that by tapping surface sources as well as underground supplies, it should be possible to meet a ten-fold increase in demand, subject to arrangements for proper conservation of water supply, in a period of 30 years.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether geologists have in the past made any report regarding the supply of water in this area and whether that has been taken into consideration?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not know about the previous geological reports, but I think some surveys were made in the past. A geologist was on this Committee helping it from a geological point of view.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: If it is germane, may I with your permission ask the following question? What is the progress of the Kandla Harbour Survey?

Mr. Speaker: That is another question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: What is the source of supply of this water? Is it tubewells or some other source?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The scheme is to build a few reservoirs at different places and also to construct wells and a pipeline scheme for the supply of water to the area.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: What is the population of Kandla?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: It is negligible at present.

ENVELOPES AND POSTCARDS (NEW DESIGNS)

*265. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state why the embossed envelopes and post cards have not yet been printed with a new design after the attainment of Independence?

(b) What are the causes for delay and when are the newly embossed envelopes and post cards likely to be issued?

(c) Have the new designs for this purpose been finalised and if so, what are these designs?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Envelopes and post cards of the new design are already on sale at post offices.

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

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether there are still in existence post cards and envelopes with the King's effigy and, if so, how many times, after the attainment of freedom, were they got printed with the King's effigy?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The old pattern envelopes and post cards are no longer in production in the Security Press. Whatever old pattern stamps are on sale are from the stock left unsold in the post offices and these must be used in the interests of national economy. I would not be able to tell my honourable friend how many times they were got printed after 15th August 1947.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the figure of God or Goddess is printed on these?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Not except on the archaeological series.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are steps taken to see that all post offices are supplied with adequate stocks of these envelopes and postcards?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know what time did it take, after obtaining independence, to print the new designs?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The new design envelopes were issued in June, 1949 and the new post cards in October, 1949.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that several post offices in the country are without an adequate stock of envelopes and cards of these new designs?

Shri Khurshed Lal: There may be post offices which have not got the new design post cards and envelopes. It is our intention to use up all the old patterns of these envelopes and post cards.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: As the Deputy Minister told us that they were printed in June 1949, I want to know whether any envelopes and post cards were printed in the old pattern after 15th August 1947?

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of the enquiry?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The point of the enquiry is that post cards and envelopes were printed in the old pattern later.

Mr. Speaker: He has already contradicted that. This is not a point for information, but for cross-examination.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION

*266. **Shri R. K. Sidhva**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under laws of the International Civil Aviation Organization, international air-ports should not lie within a radius of about 10 miles of any flying club, slaughter house or tannery?

(b) If so, are there any air-ports in India which infringe this regulation?

(c) Do Government intend to follow the International Civil Aviation Organisation laws?

(d) If there are any such air-ports which do not comply with these requirements, what steps Government intend to take and which are such ports?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) No, but International Civil Aviation Organisation's recommendations and standards are to the effect that training of student pilots should be so arranged that they do not constitute a hazard to air navigation, and are aimed generally to eliminate such hazards. The flight of vultures, attracted by a slaughter house or tannery may, according to the facts of each case, constitute such hazard.

(b) Does not arise; but the vultures near Santa Cruz due to a slaughter house and tanneries in the vicinity, constitute a hazard to safety of air navigation. Also, when Santa Cruz airport is fully developed, it may become necessary to shift the Bombay Flying Club from Juhu.

(c) Yes, to the extent of India's resources.

(d) The question of shifting the slaughter house and tanneries away from the vicinity of Santa Cruz airport is under negotiation with the authorities concerned.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Have the Government asked the Bombay Government to remove the slaughter house from its present position within three years and whether they have considered the steps they intend to take during that period for the safety of the aircrafts?

Shri Khurshed Lal: As I said, we have already taken up the matter with the Bombay Municipal Corporation for the removal of the slaughter house from there. But no time-limit has been fixed. We are trying to expedite the removal as much as possible.

IMPORT OF GRAM

*267. **Shri R. K. Sidhva**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether gram is surplus in the country?

(b) What has been the quantity of production of gram in 1947, 1948 and 1949, and what has been the consumption during the same period?

(c) Has any quantity of gram been imported from foreign countries in 1947, 1948 and 1949? If so, what was the quantity?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The country is more or less self-sufficient in gram.

(b) Production during each of the years 1947, 1948 and 1949 was 3.7 million tons, 4.5 million tons and 4.6 million tons respectively. Statistics of consumption of gram are not available but it may be assumed, except for the usual carry-over, the quantity produced in a year is consumed during the year.

(c) No gram has been imported on Government account in 1947, 1948 and 1949.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that no grams were imported on Government account. May I know whether any gram was imported on any other account?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It could only be on trade account, because during that time there was no control on gram.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: In 1948 there was control on gram.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There was no control during the period that gram was imported.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I ask whether it is not a fact that Government imported from Aden a certain quantity in the latter part of 1948?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have given the information. Government have not imported gram.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I ask whether any gram was imported from Aden and, if so, what is the quantity, in what year and by whom?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is it a fact that large quantities of gram are lying in P.E.P.S.U. and East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not think it is even now lying there. There was a large surplus declared by P.E.P.S.U. and East Punjab. That was at a very late stage.

I will give the House some information on this matter, because I know there is some amount of criticism in regard to it. The P.E.P.S.U. Government declared in September some 50,000 tons as surplus. We allocated that surplus to various Governments. Then again on 15th November they declared 15,000 tons as surplus and this again was allocated to some provinces. Again in January they declared a surplus of 15,000 tons and this also was allocated. Again there was a surplus and this too we allocated to the Provinces. The difficulty arose because they declared a surplus in July this year.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether these quantities which were allocated to different provinces were subsequently removed from the mandis?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Most of the gram was sent to the provinces. I believe the whole quantity has been sent to the provinces.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the figures supplied by P.E.P.S.U. were correct and that there really was no wastage?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In P.E.P.S.U. the administrative machinery is not up to the mark. As the Government is not directly procuring we were not able to get reliable data. We are trying to see that the administrative machinery is brought up to the mark.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Was it in the knowledge of Government that gram was imported from foreign countries and, if so, why they did not take steps to stop it?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In August 1948 the Commerce Ministry decided to relax their import regulations regarding the commodities that should be allowed to be imported. At that time gram was not under control. Only one per cent. of the total production here was imported. The import amounted to 35,000 tons as against the production in India of 38,00,000 tons.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Do Government maintain figures of gram that go to rot?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government have no record of any commodity that goes to rot, not only gram but of other commodities also.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the price of gram in Punjab and Jaipur and Jodhpur?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would require notice of the question.

STATE RAILWAYS

***268. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the names of the Railways belonging to the Indian States which came under control of the Government of India after the States' merger with various provinces or otherwise?

(b) What had been the total strength and income of each Railway before it was taken over by the Government of India?

(c) Are there still any Railways under the control of Indian States? If so, which are they and when are they likely to be taken over?

(d) Are all these Railways self-supporting?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) and (b). I place a statement on the Table of the House (See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 1), Part I of which gives full details of Railways belonging to Indian States which have come under the control of the Government of India. The expression 'strength of each railway' is not clear, perhaps the Honourable Member refers to the length, i.e., route mileage.

(c) Details of Railways which are still under the control of Indian States or Unions are given in Part II of the statement. These Railways will be taken over by the Government of India on 1st April, 1950.

(d) The financial results for 1948-49 of all these Railways would appear to indicate that except for the Jodhpur Railway, the rest are self-supporting.

PUSA DAIRY FARM

***269. Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the quantity of milk daily produced in the Pusa Dairy Farm?

(b) What is the cost price of milk per seer and at what rates is it supplied to:

(i) the employees of the Pusa Institute; and

(ii) the public at large?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Eight hundred and twenty-five to eight hundred and eighty-five seers.

(b) The cost comes to six and a half annas a seer. The sale rate of milk for both (i) and (ii) is eight annas a seer, delivery at the Institute.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I have the quantity consumed in the Institute itself and the quantity sold in the open market?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to give the figures. Probably a good portion is consumed in the Institute by the students and the low-paid staff.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if most of the milk produced is consumed by the employees of the Institution itself?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have not got the figures, but I am prepared to supply them.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What are the items taken into account in arriving at the cost of production in the dairy?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: All the various charges including a portion of administrative charges and also depreciation.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: May I know whether the Institute is doing anything to improve the stock of the cattle?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It has done a great deal to improve the stock of the cattle. Previously the yield of milk per cow was 12 lbs. Now it has been increased to 20 lbs.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if the Government has issued any instructions with regard to the quantity of milk to be consumed in the Institute itself? What I want to know is whether there is any restriction placed on the use of milk in the Institute itself.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: At present there is no restriction, but the whole question is being reviewed.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: May I know if the Government is buying any milk at a higher rate than that at which it is selling from this Dairy, and, if so, why cannot the Government purchase from the Dairy itself?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have no knowledge of Government purchasing any milk from outside.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: The Government should be purchasing milk in its different institutions like hospitals, etc. In these Institutions is the Government purchasing at a higher price than that at which it is selling in this Dairy? If so, why cannot the Government purchase from this Dairy itself?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: A proposal to hand over the surplus to hospitals is under consideration.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know the purpose for which Government is maintaining this Dairy?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The purpose is to improve cattle of the Sahiwal breed.

GROUND-NUT-CAKE-FLOUR

***270. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

- (a) the institutions and laboratories where experiments have been carried out with ground-nut-cake-flour as to its suitability for human consumption; and
- (b) the results of such experiments?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) (i) Nutrition Research Laboratory, Coonoor; (ii) Central Food Technological Institute, Mysore; (iii) All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta; (iv) Haffkine Institute, Bombay; (v) Nutrition Adviser, Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, New Delhi; and (vi) Ministry of Food Laboratory.

(b) The result of these experiments have shown that if ground-nut-cake-flour is of good quality and free from grit and rancidity it could be used with wheat atta to the extent of 5 per cent.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Is there any country in this world which uses this ground-nut-cake-flour and, if so, is there any difference in the chemical composition of the ground-nut-cake-flour they use and that we are going to use here?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say if ground-nut-cake-flour mixed with wheat flour is used anywhere else. So far as the quality is concerned, if we have to introduce this at all, the Government does not propose to use any quality which is not absolutely fit for human consumption.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether ground-nut-cake-flour is used in the U.S.A.?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is used in the U.S.A. for various purposes for human consumption but not in the form of flour.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: May I know for how long ground-nut-cake-flour mixed with atta keeps its quality without decomposing?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: About five weeks in Delhi, but this period will differ from place to place.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Will the Government take necessary precautions to see that ground-nut-flour mixed with atta is not used beyond this period?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government will take every precaution to see that this is not used beyond the period when it gets rancid.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether Government has arrived at any decision to introduce ground-nut-cake-flour as an item of food in the rationing of the country?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No final decision has been arrived at yet.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have all the Honourable Ministers given a fair trial to this commodity in their daily diet? Has the Honourable Minister at least done so?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does the Honourable Minister know that an experiment was made of mixing this ground-nut-cake-flour, cakes were prepared and distributed to about 150 girls of the Lady Irwin College and that after that, the girls were suffering from nausea and many suffered from diarrhoea.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I cannot allow this question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am only making an enquiry.

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Deshmukh.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know, Sir, whether this proposal to use on a large scale the ground-nut-cake-flour for human consumption is in conformity with the Gandhian principles, since it will deprive cattle of their feed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Deshbandu Gupta: May I know the estimated cost of groundnut-cake-flour per maund?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: At Bombay, it will be Rs. 9 per maund F.O.R.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What are the other uses to which ground-nut-cake-flour is put, and whether the quantities available are sufficient for these purposes?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is used as manure, and the quantity available is not sufficient for manuring purposes.

HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS

***271. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many expeditions have up to date, been sent by Government to the Himalayas for finding a suitable site for the establishment of a Research Institute at high altitude; and

(b) the expenses incurred by Government on each of these expeditions?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) The Indian Meteorological Department and the Central Water-power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission have to undertake joint tours to certain areas in the Western Himalayas for Hydrometeorological and Snow Survey work. It has been arranged that these tours should be taken advantage of for surveying possible sites for the establishment of a high-level Research Station in the Himalayas. Three such tours have so far been undertaken.

(b) The expenditure incurred on these tours was respectively Rs. 14,800, Rs. 16,400 and Rs. 9,300. The major part of this expenditure was in connection with the Hydrometeorological and Snow Survey work.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether these expeditions have come to any successful conclusion?

Shri Khurshed Lal: As I said, no site has yet been fixed upon.

Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand: What were the places these expeditions went to and when?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The first was in June-July, 1948 to Badrinath and Kairi Pass areas; the second was in May-June, 1949 to Sikkim and Jumnotri areas; and the third was in August-September, 1949 to Bara Lacha area.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know whether there were any casualties in these expeditions?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Not any that I know of.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Is Government contemplating any such further expeditions?

Shri Khurshed Lal: These expeditions were undertaken for some other work and advantage was taken of that to examine sites for this purpose also. They were not undertaken primarily for the purpose of fixing a site.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: For what other purposes?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I said they were undertaken for Hydrometeorological and Snow Survey work.

OBSERVATORY ON THE HIMALAYAS

*272. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the scheme for establishing a multi purpose observatory on the Himalayas has been finalised?

(b) If so, where will it be situated? (c) What will be the cost of (i) construction; (ii) equipments; and (iii) maintenance of the said observatory?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) I am not in a position to give any estimates at this stage.

NEW POST OFFICES

*273. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages, with a population of two thousand and over, applied to the Government for opening Post Offices in their respective areas in the years 1948 and 1949;

- (b) in how many cases their requests have been complied with;
- (c) how many applications are under consideration; and
- (d) how many cases have been rejected?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) 3,619 during the period from January, 1948 to October, 1949.

(b) 2,040.

(c) 1,428.

(d) 151.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: May I know whether any Post Offices were asked to deposit some money and, if so, how much money has been deposited by them?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I do not know that any Post Offices are asked to deposit any money.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know the policy of the Government as regards the establishment of Post Offices in villages which have a population of less than two thousand?

Shri Khurshed Lal: In these cases we try to accommodate the villages as much as we can by combining two or three of them.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: What are the principles governing the opening of Post Offices?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Post Offices are opened on certain principles. As I have said, of the four thousand applications received, only 151 have been rejected.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated in the last Budget Session that the increase in the postage stamps and post-cards was due to the opening of new Post Offices in villages. May I know from 1st April 1949 to October, how many Post Offices were opened?

Shri Khurshed Lal: About 1,500 Post Offices have been opened since the 1st of April this year.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know what has been the additional cost on the opening of these 1,500 Post Offices?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: It was said in this House that we will open Post Offices where the loss in the first year will not exceed Rs. 750 and therefore wherever the estimated loss is not more than Rs. 750 in the first year, we have opened Post Offices and the applications that were rejected were from places where the loss would have been more than Rs. 750 a year.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What I asked was about the total cost and not the cost which has been incurred on each individual Post Office or the maximum of cost which can be incurred on individual Post Offices. May I have an idea of the total cost which Government have incurred in the total year?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: The total cost can be calculated if we have got the returns but our estimate was that in any Post Office newly opened, we will incur a loss of not more than Rs. 750 a year.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether the Government have any scheme of running mobile Post Offices like the mobile treasuries in the U.P.?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: We have approved that experiment but we have not got any definite scheme as yet.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: What is the number of villages with a population of 2,000 and which are not served by the Post Offices?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The total number of villages with a population of over 2,000 in India is 16,178. The number of villages which had post offices on or before 31st March 1949, was 9934, the number of Post Offices opened in such villages from 1st April, 1949 to 31st October, 1949 is 1762.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that the scheme of mobile Post Offices was attempted in the Central Provinces but has since been abandoned?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Some experiments were made but we have not yet come to any definite conclusion.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: What number of these 1,500 Post Offices which were opened last year were in those groups of villages which have population less than 2,000 and what number is confined to the villages which have got more than 2,000 population?

Shri Khurshed Lal: We have not differentiated that way. Either the village should have a population of 2,000 itself or roundabout that must have that population. I won't be able to give the Honourable Member exact figures.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know when the integration of the Department is completed, whether the Government intend to convert all the Anjal offices in the State of Travancore and Cochin as Post Offices?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The question of Anjal offices in the State of Travancore and Cochin is under our active examination as to what we are going to do after the 1st April 1950. In any case, we do not intend to decrease the facilities which the people have already got.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Are the 1,500 post offices full-fledged post offices, i.e., doing all postal transactions?

Shri Khurshed Lal: All sorts.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Is it expected that the Post Offices will be self-sufficient after the first year?

Shri Khurshed Lal: They are not expected to be self-sufficient after the first year.

DEVELOPMENT OF KANDLA PORT

*274. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state the progress so far made to develop Kandla as a major port?

(b) How long will it take to complete the work?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) For the co-ordinated development of Kandla Port, Railway and the hinterland, a high-level Organisation under a Development Commissioner has been set up and the engineering and other staff necessary has been and is being recruited. An advisory Committee has been established with Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai as Chairman to advise the Government in regard to the various development plans connected with the project. Priority is being given to the metre gauge rail link to the port and a special Officer has been put in charge of this construction. The question of water supply has been examined by a Committee and boring is

expected to start shortly. Construction of quarters and land reclamation will also commence shortly. Improvements to navigational aids immediately necessary in the Gulf of Cutch have been decided upon. Hydrographic, land and traffic surveys of the port area are well under way. Arrangements have been made for the visit of Consulting Engineers to the port for a reconnaissance survey for deciding along with other matters, the actual site of the berths.

(b) About four years.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: How much money has been spent in the construction of the Kandla Port and how much the whole scheme will cost?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Rs. 15 lakhs have been allotted for expenditure in the current year. I have not got the figures of actual expenditure up-to-date.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the owners of the salt factory adjoining this Kandla Port approached the Government with the request that the salt factory should be allowed to be retained, and otherwise it will cost the Government a great deal of amount? May I know whether any representation has been made and if so, whether a committee has been appointed to consider this point.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: A representation has been received and it is under consideration.

RAILWAY BOGIES AND LOCOMOTIVES

*275. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of bogies manufactured and locomotives assembled or manufactured in India during the financial years 1947-48 and 1948-49?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: It is presumed that by the word 'Bogies' the Honourable Member means 'Bogie Coaches'. The numbers of such coaches built in India are:

	1947-48	1948-49
Broad Gauge	90	111
Metre Gauge	15	84

The manufacture of locomotives in India has not yet properly commenced. This will start at the Chittaranjan Workshops next year. In spite of the limited workshop resources so far, however, one BG Tank Engine was built at Ajmer during 1947-48 and four during 1948-49.

In the case of some of the locomotives imported from abroad, assembling has to be done at Railway Workshops at ports. During 1947-48, eight imported locomotives were assembled; during 1948-49, 86 were assembled. Wherever possible, shipping arrangements are made to enable import of completely assembled locomotives.

ACCIDENTS ON THE RAILWAYS

*276. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that serious accidents occur on the Railways due to the overcrowding, sitting of passengers on the roof and standing of passengers outside the doors of trains?

(b) If so, do Government propose to run only one-class trains like the Janata Express on suitable railway lines?

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

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) There has been no accident directly attributable to overcrowding in compartments, but certain accidents have taken place on account of persons travelling on footboards and roofs of carriages. To a certain extent these dangerous practices are to be attributed to non-purchase of tickets and other irregularities not connected with overcrowding in compartments.

(b) All possible steps, including the running of purely class three trains, continue to be taken to meet the problem of overcrowding.

GROW MORE FOOD

†*277. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the figures for the year beginning with June, 1948 of (i) the net area of land cultivated, (ii) the area left fallow and (iii) the area of cultivable waste lands in India?

(b) With what success have steps been taken for growing more food?

(c) What steps have been taken to tap the recently found water resources in the deserts of Rajputana?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Full information is not available for 1948-49. It is being collected and will be made available as soon as it is ready.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House showing the additional production of food-grains achieved under intensive cultivation schemes in Provinces in 1947-48 and 1948-49, as reported by the provinces.

(c) It has been decided to set up an exploration unit provided with modern equipment for exploring and developing the underground water resources of Rajasthan.

STATEMENT

The additional production achieved during 1947-48 and 1948-49 under G. M. F. Schemes.

(Figures in lakh tons)

Name of Province	1947-48	1948-49 (Increase over 1947-48 production)
(1) Assam	0.20	0.51
(2) Bihar	0.79	0.53
(3) Bombay	0.65	0.60
(4) C. P. and Berar	0.26	0.48
(5) East Punjab	0.01	0.09
(6) Madras	3.00	2.79
(7) Orissa	0.12	0.16
(8) U. P.	1.56	1.86
(9) West Bengal	0.13	0.26
TOTAL	6.72	7.28

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

DELHI TRANSPORT SERVICE

*278. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state what price Government had to pay when taking over the bus-services in Delhi and New Delhi, now known as the Delhi Transport Service?

(b) What was the total number of vehicles which the Government took over?

(c) When was the taking over completed?

(d) How many of the vehicles taken over were not in order?

(e) How many new vehicles have been added to the fleet after Government took over?

(f) What is the total number of vehicles now actually plying?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) The price payable was Rs. 26,00,280.

(b) 188 buses and 21 miscellaneous vehicles such as trucks, cars, motor cycles, jeeps, etc.

(c) On 14th May, 1948.

(d) 44 were undergoing repairs.

(e) 127.

(f) The number of buses in actual use is 195 and the average number of buses plying daily is 150.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Out of the vehicles that had been taken from the G.N.I.T. what is the number that is actually on line today?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: About 70 are in actual use.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the estimate of buses required to meet all the requirements of the traffic.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The full estimate is 300.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Are Government satisfied that the payment of Rs. 26 lakhs was not an over-payment?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: A Valuation Board was appointed consisting of Mr. S. V. Ayyar, Cost Accountant, Ministry of Finance, Mr. B. K. Lal, Service Representative of General Motors, Mr. H. A. Arshacony of General Motors, whose decision was binding on both parties.

Shri H. E. Guruv Reddy: What is the cost of each of the new vehicles that ply on the road?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I am afraid, I will require notice of that.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is the service running at a loss to Government?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: No. The other day I stated that the profit was expected to be about Rs. 10 lakhs for the current year.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the general complaint that this bus service is still unpunctual and irregular?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: My information is that recently the buses are running fairly punctually.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Out of the 188 buses taken over as many as 118

are out of order. Do Government hope to recover some of them or have they all been declared irrecoverable?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, some twelve buses were bought in 1943, eighteen in 1944, thirty-one in 1945, and fifteen in 1946 and therefore many of them are to be scrapped and some of them are to undergo major repairs before they can be put on the road.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: As regards the sum of Rs. 26 lakhs which was paid to the Delhi Transport, did it include the price of the carriages and the workshop only or did it include a royalty or good-will as well?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, the price included an amount of Rs. 88,100 for good-will compensation, Rs. 20,53,179 for cost of vehicles, Rs. 3,15,735 for spare parts, Rs. 25,975 for machine tools and Rs. 35,700 for furniture and fittings and Rs. 81,591 for stationery and stores.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know the name of the gentleman who negotiated the deal on behalf of the GNIT and the gentleman on behalf of the Government?

Mr. Speaker: Name of the gentleman?

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: I mean the name of the officer.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know if the Transport Ministry has made any efforts to secure vehicles from the Disposals Department?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I do not know if the Disposals Department had any vehicles suitable for a service like the Delhi Transport Service. However, I require notice of that question.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: My friend Mr. Tripathi put a question with a view to know the name of the gentleman who negotiated the deal on behalf of the GNIT and perhaps you were pleased to rule it out of order. May I submit that this is not a personal question.

Mr. Speaker: I do not want any argument over that question.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Sir, the Honourable Minister just now gave the names of the officers on the Valuation Board. We only want to know the name of the Managing Director of the GNIT.....

Mr. Speaker: The question is not a proper one for answer.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: May I know how the fares in Delhi compare with those in Bombay and Calcutta?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The rates in Delhi are certainly much higher than those in Bombay or Calcutta and they have to be higher in view of the traffic being concentrated during certain periods of the day and no traffic offering during the rest of the day.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: The Honourable Minister stated that he requires three hundred buses to meet the requirements of Delhi. Do Government propose to increase the number and if so, when?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: We are expecting to set up the Delhi Transport Authority and as soon as that Authority comes into being I expect that it will take the necessary steps in the direction.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

D. T. S. STRIKE

***279. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state why the D.T.S. employees went on strike in August, 1949?

(b) What were the demands of the strikers?

(c) Have any of these demands now been met by Government?

(d) What was the total number of the strikers?

(e) Have all the strikers been re-employed now?

(f) If not, how many of them have not yet been taken back in service and why?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) The Delhi Transport Service employees put forth certain demands for revision of pay and allowances and improved service conditions and demanded that they should be met by the Government within a month. Their representatives were interviewed by me on 9th August and were informed that their demands were being examined and Government's decision would be communicated to them by a specified date which was 30th September, 1949. The employees however under advice of their leaders went on strike from 10th August, 1949.

(b) and (c). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the written reply given to part (b) of the question by the Honourable Shri V. C. Kesava Rao on the 30th November, 1949.

(d) 1,227.

(e) No.

(f) 141 strikers still remain to be re-employed. Their re-employment will be considered as and when vacancies arise.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: On a point of order, Sir, a similar or identical question has been answered already.

Mr. Speaker: That is what I was thinking. Let the answer be there but we will not have any supplementary questions. Next question.

NIGHT AIR MAIL SERVICE

***280. Shri O. V. Alagesan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state what was the total quantity of mail carried by night air mail service when it was in operation before the last monsoon season?

(b) What percentage of the total mail was carried by night air mail service?

(c) What expenditure has been incurred by the Government for the carrying of night air mail during the above period?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) 458,917 lbs. from 31st January, 1949, to 8th June, 1949.

(b) Of the total mail carried during the period 31st January, 1949 to 8th June, 1949, approximately 3.2 per cent. of the weight was carried by the Night Mail Service.

(c) Rs. 5,79,284/10/-.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: What is the present percentage of the mail that is being carried by the night air mail?

Shri Khurshed Lal: About 25 per cent. of the total mail is carried by air. As to how much out of that is carried by the night air mail I require notice.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the average number of passengers carried every night by the night air mail service?

Shri Khurshed Lal: It does not arise out of this question.

NIGHT AIR MAIL SERVICE

*281. **Shri O. V. Alagesan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the names of the companies which were given the contracts to carry night air mail when it was first introduced?

(b) What are the companies which have been given the contract to carry night air mail from 15th October 1949?

(c) What is the procedure adopted in granting these contracts?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) The Indian Overseas Airlines Limited from the 31st January, 1949, under a provisional licence which expired on June 30, 1949.

(b) One Company, namely, the Himalayan Aviation Limited under a provisional licence for three months.

(c) Licences were granted in accordance with the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937. Prior to that, consultations had been held with all air transport companies in regard to the terms of carriage of mails by air by night.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: In view of the fact that night air mail service is economically sound, is it proposed to extend the scheme?

Shri Khurshed Lal: We are considering the possibility of extending the night air mail service.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Who are the Managing Directors of the Himalayan Aviation Ltd.?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: There is a question on that coming up.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The provisional licence granted to them was for three months only. Is it contemplated to extend the period or some other procedure is contemplated?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The matter will be considered by the Air Transport Licensing Board in due course.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, Question No. 286 may not be reached.

Mr. Speaker: Let us make an effort to reach it.

MESSAGE RATE SYSTEM (TELEPHONES)

*282. **Shri Arun Chandra Guha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state in how many cities, Message Rate System for telephone has been introduced?

(b) What is the rate in the different cities?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) The message rate is current in eight cities.

(b) In Amritsar, Kanpur, Delhi and Poona, subscribers pay a fixed monthly rental of Rs. 10 per telephone plus call charges at twelve calls to the rupee.

In Bombay and Ahmedabad, the fixed monthly rental is Rs. 12 while calls are charged at As. -/1/6 each. In Madras, the fixed monthly rental is Rs. 12 while the call charges are As. -/1/6 per call up to 80 calls and As. -/1/3 per call thereafter for all calls made in any one month.

In Calcutta the fixed monthly rental is Rs. 15 and calls are payable at As. -/2/- each. If the subscriber does not make more than 80 calls in one month, he gets a refund of Rs. 3 from the fixed rental but pays for calls at the rate of ten calls for Rs. 1/8/-.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Why are there different rates prevailing in the different cities?

Shri Khurshed Lal: In the departmental exchanges the charges are the same. But in the exchanges that we took over from companies they had different rates. We are now trying to bring in uniformity.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: May I know the reason why the rate is higher in Calcutta?

Shri Khurshed Lal: These are the rates which were being charged by the company at the time it was operating. Now in view of the fact that we are going to incur a huge expenditure for providing an automatic exchange in Calcutta we are examining the question as to what should be the proper charge in Calcutta.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: When do the Government propose to introduce the automatic system in Calcutta and when do they expect the rates to be reduced?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The scheme will cost about fifteen crores of rupees for Calcutta and it will take about five years to complete. I cannot give any assurance to my honourable friend that the charges will be reduced. That will depend on what the scheme costs in its entirety.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: If a wrong number is obtained through the mistake of the exchange is the charge for the call refunded?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That depends upon the Honourable Member himself.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I said "through the mistake of the exchange".

Mr. Speaker: It is a question of rules.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Have any complaints been made by subscribers for wrong number and have refunds of the calls been considered?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: If an immediate complaint is made refund is allowed.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How many complaints have been made by subscribers in Bombay?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: The General Manager, Bombay, will be able to give the reply.

Prof. K. T. Shah: What has been the effect on the volume of the traffic by the introduction of the message rate system? Has there been any decline in volume and if so, how much?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The volume of the traffic has considerably declined and the service has consequently improved.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: On what date would the General Manager, Bombay, be present in the House to reply to that question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Are we to take that till the installation of the automatic system in Calcutta there cannot be any reduction in the charges, i.e., not within five years?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The matter of fixing the proper charges in Calcutta is at present under consideration.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: At least the rental charge for the instruments can be reduced immediately?

Shri Khurshed Lal: All these questions will be taken into consideration.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Would you allow an Honourable Minister in reply to a question to refer to the General Manager, Bombay? If likewise every Honourable Minister asks the questioner to refer to his officers, would that be a correct procedure?

Mr. Speaker: The only point is that he requires notice to answer such a question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not the duty of the Honourable Minister to say that he requires notice instead of suggesting someone of his subordinate officers.

Mr. Speaker: The matter does not require any serious notice.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: But it is not courtesy to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

JUTE

***283. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the total quantity of jute and jute products exported from India in 1946-47?

(b) What were the areas under jute cultivation in the financial years 1947-48 and 1948-49?

(c) What facilities do Government propose to provide to make India self-sufficient in jute?

(d) Has any financial aid been given to the peasants and if so, what is the amount given and what is the plan?

(e) Has any survey of land been made in Orissa and Assam to ascertain the areas suitable for jute cultivation?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). Two statements are placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 2.)

(c) Facilities to be provided to the cultivators are: (i) improved seeds; (ii) allocation of fertilizers; and (iii) technical help for the control of pests and diseases of jute.

(d) The Government of Orissa have offered subsidies on seeds and have also offered irrigation water at reduced rates of tax to the peasants. The U.P. Government also give subsidies for seeds to the peasants. The question of giving financial aid from the Centre is now under consideration by Government.

(e) A rough survey was made by the Indian Central Jute Committee in 1948 but a detailed survey is now being undertaken by field parties in these provinces.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has the Honourable Minister taken notice of some press reports that jute can be grown in Konkan districts of Bombay Presidency?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are any steps being taken, to facilitate and help these people to grow jute in those districts?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter also will be considered at the next meeting of the officials concerned with jute production which will be held in the middle of this month.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are any steps being taken to survey different parts of the country with a view to find out whether there are possibilities of growing jute in other parts of the country?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The whole matter is being considered and wherever it is possible to increase the production of jute that area will be included in the programme.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the new scheme result in the diversion of land under food crops and thus adversely affect the Grow More Food campaign?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No. The idea is to co-ordinate the programmes and not to reduce the area which is otherwise intended for food production. If to any extent the food production in any particular Province is affected to that extent food production will be increased in other parts of the country.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether Government are encouraging jute cultivation in the low lands in Travancore and whether the same is affecting food production?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It will not be allowed to affect the food production scheme.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: May I know what is the area under jute cultivation?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have given it in the statement. For 1948-49 the area was 7,65,605 acres.

SUGAR AND SUGAR-CANE

***284. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the price of sugar-cane fixed by Government for the ensuing current season?

(b) What is the corresponding selling price of sugar fixed by Government?

(c) What are the factors that have been taken into account in fixing the price of sugar-cane?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Rs. 1/10/- per maund in U.P.

(b) Rs. 28/8/0 for E-27 grade sugar.

(c) In fixing the price the provincial governments generally take into account the cost of production of cane and the relative prices of competitive crops.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Sir, in view of the fact that Government are allotting some time for a discussion of this question I do not propose to put any supplementaries now. But I would be obliged if the Honourable Minister can inform the House when he is going to fix the date for the discussion of the sugar question.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Sir, I would be able to indicate the date a few days afterwards.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do Government propose to announce the sugar-cane prices well in advance of the crushing season?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The season has started in many parts of the country and so far as the main producing areas are concerned the price has been declared.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will a note on the subject be supplied to Members well in advance?

Mr. Speaker: It has already been said so.

Shri Sri Narayan Mahtha: May I know the price of sugar-cane in Bihar?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Rs. 1-10-9.

Shri Sri Narayan Mahtha: While fixing the price of sugar-cane have Government taken into consideration the fact that the cost of cultivation is not cheaper this year than it was last year?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As Honourable Members are aware the prices of sugar-cane are fixed by the Provincial Governments of U.P. and Bihar under their local Acts. Therefore the Bihar price has been fixed by the Bihar Government and I believe they must have taken all these facts into consideration.

SUGAR

***285. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(i) what was the retail price of sugar prevailing in the markets of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Delhi and Lucknow immediately before sugar stocks were frozen by the Government of India;

(ii) the peak-price reached in the same markets after the stocks were frozen by the Government of India; and

(iii) the current price prevailing in these markets?

(b) What was the amount of sugar frozen in the U.P., Bihar and the rest of India?

(c) Were the Provincial Governments, particularly those of the U.P. and Bihar consulted before the decision to freeze sugar was taken?

(d) What were the views of the Provincial Governments, particularly those of the U.P. and Bihar in the matter?

(e) What are the proposals now before the Government to ensure a regular and steady supply of sugar at reasonable price?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A statement showing the retail prices of sugar in the towns mentioned, is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The quantity of sugar with the U.P. and Bihar sugar mills taken over by the Government was 1,07,123 tons while that in the rest of India was 15,934 tons.

(c) Yes.

(d) It would not be in the public interest to publish the views of the different provincial governments. In coming to its final conclusions on policy

Government was guided by the views of a majority of the provincial governments.

(e) A regular and steady supply of sugar at reasonable price will be largely dependent on adequate production of sugar in the ensuing season and every effort is being made to encourage maximum production.

STATEMENT

Name of town.	Sugar price (Retail) per seer		(IN RUPEES)
	Price immediately before sugar stocks were frozen by the Govt. of India ..	Peak-price reached after the stocks were frozen by the Govt. of India,	Prevailing price (in ration).
Calcutta	-/14/- to 1/-	1/-	-/13/9
Madras	1/1/3	1,8/-	-/14/-
Bombay	1/- to 1/2/-	2/3/-	-/14/-
Delhi	1/- to 1/2/-	2/- to 2/4/-	-/13/3
Lucknow	-/15/-		-/13/3

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether it is a fact that at least one Minister of a Provincial Government and the Food Minister have indulged, in open controversy over sugar in the Press?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not like to discuss that matter at present in the House.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: The Honourable Minister suggested in the course of his reply that the efforts of the Government to provide sugar at a reasonable price will depend on the total production during the ensuing season

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, it will very much depend on that.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Does he mean to suggest that the high price of sugar from which the public is suffering now is due entirely to the short production during the last season?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It does not mean that. What it means is that as the population increases and the sugar habit increases from year to year the production also has to increase alongside. Therefore, the increased supply will depend on the increased production and the increased demand.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is it a fact that the Tariff Board was consulted with regard to the price of sugar and sugar-cane and that it recommended that during the course of the next two years the price of sugar-cane should be brought down from Rs. 1/10/0 to Rs. 1/4/0 in two successive stages and that the price of sugar should be fixed at Rs. 22/4/0?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is a fact.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know why the recommendations of the Tariff Board have not been implemented?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The U.P. Government found it difficult to fix the price of sugar-cane at less than Rs. 1/10/0.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether one of the considerations for fixing the price of sugar-cane at Rs. 1/10/0 was that the collection of Zamin-dari Abolition Fund may be facilitated?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Question Hour is over.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, Question No. 286 has not been reached.

Mr. Speaker: I was trying to reach it, but there was no help.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

THE HIMALAYAN AIRWAYS

***286. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India hold any shares in the Himalayan Airways to which the carrying of night mails has been entrusted;

(b) when this company was first established and who the Directors of the company are;

(c) what the number of Indian and non-Indian pilots serving in the company is;

(d) what the routes of this Airways Company are; whether they are confined within India; and

(e) whether the company has any previous experience of night-flying?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) No, Sir.

(b) On the 4th May, 1948. The Directors of the company are: Major-General Mahabir Sham Sher Jung Bahadur Rana (Chairman), Messrs. S. A. Basil, H. C. Lahiri, C. B. Pecker, D. N. Ganguli and R. E. W. Tomsett, Col. Maharajah Prithi Singh and Capt. S. Bujakowski.

(c) 21 pilots, comprising nine Indian, nine non-Indian and three Stateless.

(d) Bombay-Nagpur-Calcutta; and Delhi-Nagpur-Madras routes.

(e) The company was engaged in the operation of extensive non-scheduled flights, part of which was by night. Several pilots of the company have experience of over 4,000 hours flying, including considerable night flying.

FOOD IMPORTS

***287. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's commitments in the way of food imports from hard currency and soft currency areas for: (i) the remainder of the current year, and (ii) the next year;

(b) the financial implications of these commitments; and

(c) the excess amount Government will have to pay as a result of the recent devaluation of the rupee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) (i) There are no commitments in respect of food imports from hard currency countries for the remainder of the current calendar year. Such commitments in respect of soft currency countries at the end of September, 1949 were:

Wheat and flour—218,500 tons,

Rice—86,700 tons.

The total C. F. value of these is about Rs. 12.66 crores.

(ii) No commitments have yet been made for food imports in 1950 except for 3,90,000 tons of wheat to be imported from Argentine.

(b) and (c). As it is a matter of negotiation with the exporting countries, it is not possible at present to give any definite estimates of the financial implications. Generally speaking we do not expect to pay as a result of devaluation any more for the outstanding commitments from soft currency countries for 1949 as they are covered by long-term contracts with fixed prices. In 1950, we expect that the price of wheat will go up by about 44 per cent., i.e., the extent of the devaluation while the price of rice may fall because of our decision to curtail our rice imports drastically.

SPEED OF RAILWAY TRAINS

***288. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the railway trains which have been speeded up during recent months, showing their previous and present speed; and

(b) the maximum speed at which such trains can be made to run without endangering public safety?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) A statement (No. I) comparing the overall journey times of the more important trains according to the Time Table in force from 1st April, 1949, and that from 1st October, 1949, is laid on the Table. Another statement (No. II) showing the highest maximum permissible and the highest maximum booked speeds of the trains generally on the different Railways is also laid on the Table. (See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 3).

(b) The maximum permissible speed is as determined by the Government Inspector of Railways with due regard to the structure and condition of track. For the broad gauge the maximum permissible speed varies from 55 to 65 m.p.h. and for the metre gauge from 45 to 50 m.p.h. Local restrictions due to curvature, bridges, etc., are imposed as necessary by Railway Administrations. There are also certain limits of permissible speed for particular types of locomotives as imposed by the Government Inspector of Railways.

ISSUE OF RETURN RAILWAY TICKETS

***289. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to re-introduce the system of issue of return tickets (both for week-ends, and longer periods) for passenger traffic; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to consider the feasibility of doing so?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) No.

(b) The position is reviewed periodically but until travel conditions return to normal and congestion no longer prevails, it will not be possible to reintroduce return tickets at concession fares.

FAILURE OF PADDY CROPS

***290. Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the failure of paddy crops in the Districts of Cuttack, Ganjam and Balasore;

(b) whether it is a fact that the procurements from these districts have been stopped;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of Orissa has been advised not to allow export of paddy outside the province; and

(d) whether Government are aware that rice is selling at 1½ seers a rupee in many places in the District of Cuttack?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) There has been partial failure of paddy crop in the districts of Cuttack, Ganjam and Balasore.

(b) Procurement received a set back in the district of Ganjam. The question of stopping procurement in the districts of Cuttack, Ganjam and Balasore consequent on partial failure of paddy crop does not arise as in Orissa there is voluntary procurement and no compulsory levy. The Government of Orissa, therefore, purchase whenever the producers in these districts want to sell.

(c) The Orissa Government apprehending scarcity of supplies did stop exports of foodgrains outside the Province for a period of 1½ months. The buffer stock available in the Province having been found sufficient to cope with the demands from the consumers in the deficit districts, the despatches were again resumed.

(d) Enquiry from the Provincial Government shows that there they have no authentic information that rice was selling at 1½ seers per rupee anywhere in the district of Cuttack, nor is there any report regarding abnormal rise in price in the recent months.

GROW MORE FOOD

***291. Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what amount has been allotted to the Orissa Government for the "Grow More Food" scheme?

(b) How many schemes in this connection have been successfully worked out?

(c) What is the acreage that will be developed for this purpose?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The total amount sanctioned to the Government of Orissa during the years 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49 was Rs. 76,68,395 by way of grants and Rs. 78,99,760 as loans.

(b) A statement showing the results of the G.M.F. schemes during 1946-47 to 1948-49 as reported by the Provincial Government is placed on the Table of the House (See *Appendix VIII, annexure No. 4*).

(c) The area which benefited from G.M.F. schemes during the years 1946-47 to 1948-49 is as follows: 1946-47—2,47,321 acres, 1947-48—2,04,906 acres and 1948-49—1,63,660 acres.

NEW RAILWAY STATIONS

***292. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what has been done with regard to the reply to my starred question No. 40, dated 30th January, 1948 in which he said that the matter of opening more Railway stations in the Cuttack District would be referred to the Railway Administration for investigation?

(b) What was the report of the Railway Administration?

(c) Do Government propose to lay a copy of it on the Table of the House?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) to (c). The General Manager, B.N. Railway's letters Nos. 18412, dated 22nd May, 1948, and C.42533/21/264B, dated 17th November, 1949, give the result of the investigation undertaken by the Railway and are placed on the Table of the House (See *Appendix VIII, annexure No. 5*).

Government agree with the conclusions reached

D. T. S. STRIKE

***293. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena has circulated amongst the members of the Constituent Assembly a booklet containing correspondence that passed between him and the Government in connection with the D.T.S. affairs?

(b) Have Government appointed any Enquiry Committee as demanded by him in connection with the alleged corruption prevalent in the D.T.S.? If so, what is the result of the enquiry, and do Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the report? If not, why not?

(c) How much loss have Government suffered on account of the strike?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Yes.

(b) No Enquiry Committee was appointed by Government as the affairs of the Delhi Transport Service were already being scrutinised by a Sub-Committee of the Standing Finance Committee. The Conditions of working of the Delhi Transport Service were also recently investigated by a Motor Transport Expert and Government are implementing the recommendations made by him to improve the services. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(c) The loss is estimated at Rs. 1,38,000.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

***294. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether any investigation has been made to ascertain the state and condition of research carried on under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, and if so, when the investigation was undertaken and with what result?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes. Investigations have been undertaken from time to time. A detailed account of them is given in the statement laid on the Table (See *Appendix VIII, annexure No. 6*).

RECLASSIFICATION OF RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS

***295. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on conversion of Second Class and Inter Class carriages into Class II carriages; and

(b) the estimated cost of alterations consequent on the reclassification proposed to be brought about with effect from 1st December 1949?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The total expenditure incurred at the time of conversion was approximately Rs. 24 lakhs. This, however, included the cost of improving wherever possible, carriages of all classes to the minimum standard laid down.

(b) The estimated cost of alterations consequent on the introduction of Class II Special from 1st December, 1949 is Rs. 6 lakhs approximately.

CLASSIFICATION OF RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS

***296. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what were the considerations, for reducing four classes of compartments (first, second, inter and third) to three classes (I, II and III) on the Indian Railways;

(b) what are the considerations which have necessitated reversion to four classes (I, II Special, II and III); and

(c) what the fares of class II Special are going to be?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The main consideration was compliance with a persistent public demand, voiced from time to time on the floor of this House, for a reduction in the number of classes of passenger accommodation by the elimination of the former 1st Class and the acceptance of the three class system by the Central Advisory Council for Railways.

(b) Public demand for more satisfactory arrangements for long distance and night travel in Class II.

(c) 14 pies per mile.

ALTERATIONS IN RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS

***297. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what alterations in railway compartments became necessary as a result of reducing four classes, First, Second, Inter and Third to three classes (I, II and III);

(b) what the number of compartments affected was and what the cost incurred in making such alterations was; and

(c) whether any further alterations will be necessitated as a result of reversion to four classes?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The principal alterations necessary were modifications in seating arrangements and provision of fans in some Class II and Class III compartments. Wash basins and mirrors were also provided in the bath rooms of a number of Class II compartments.

(b) It is estimated that about eight thousand compartments were affected and the total cost incurred in making these alterations was approximately Rs. 24 lakhs.

(c) Yes.

RAILWAY COACHES AND AMENITIES

***298. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Class III coaches of the new type, which have been constructed and put on lines so far on the different B. G. and M. G. Systems;

(b) whether Government have fixed any target date by which the existing old type coaches may be completely replaced by the new type of coaches;

(c) what amenities Government have so far provided in Class III male and female coaches during the current financial year and on which Railways;

(d) what amount has so far been spent by Government since the commencement of the current financial year on such amenities, and what further amount they intend to spend by the end of the current financial year and on which Railway lines;

(e) whether Government have in view the introduction of a newer type of carriages;

(f) if so, what the design of such carriages will be and the approximate cost of this type of carriage, and how these figures compare with the cost of the old carriages in vogue or of the new type of carriages already introduced; and

(g) what extra facilities such newer type of carriages will provide?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Fifty class III coaches of a new design have been constructed and put on line upto 30th November, 1949 on different B. G. railways. No. M. G. coaches of new design have so far been built.

(b) No target date can be fixed as the replacement of stock is done on an age cum condition basis.

(c) Fans are being fitted in class III women's compartments on all the Indian Government Railways. This amenity will be extended to other compartments as fittings become available. Bars are being fitted to windows of women's compartments. Improvements are being made to the lavatory compartments of class III stock.

(d) Railways have already spent 13 lakhs and it is estimated that about another six lakhs will be spent by the end of the current financial year on all Indian Government Railways.

(e) Yes.

(f) The design of the new type of coach is under preparation. These coaches are expected to cost approximately Rs. 1 lakh each, without interior furnishings, compared with Rs. 80,000 for the new interim design of coaches already introduced.

(g) The newer type of coaches will have transverse seating arrangements as against the present longitudinal type, the depth of seat will increase from 18 inches to 23 inches and knee room from 19½ inches to 21 inches. The lavatories will be of the improved type including wash basins and mirror. The width of the doors will be increased from two feet and four inches to two feet and nine inches. Besides, there will be improved and more liberal lighting arrangements, thermal insulation, improved ventilation for protection against heat and improved riding qualities. The new design will also be lighter in weight and will possess anti-telescopic features which will make it a safer vehicle in the event of collisions.

RAILWAY WORKSHOP AT CHITTARANJAN

***299. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what approximate amount of investment has been made in the Locomotive Manufacturing Workshop at Chittaranjan and by which date it is likely to produce the first finished locomotive;

(b) whether the locomotive-manufacturing plant has been purchased, and if so, from which country and at what cost; and

(c) whether any negotiations are going on for getting from abroad technical personnel for this Workshop, and if so, from which country and on what terms?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 14.75 crores, and a sum of approximately Rs. 3.5 crores has been spent so far. The first finished locomotive is expected to come out of the workshop during the last quarter of 1950.

(b) Orders for the machinery and plant required have been placed to the extent of Rs. 72 lakhs in India, Rs. 265 lakhs in the United Kingdom, Rs. 56,000 in Canada and Rs. 23,000 in the United States of America.

(c) Negotiations are in progress with the Locomotive Manufacturing Company of the United Kingdom for technical assistance in establishing production at the Locomotive Manufacturing Workshop at Chittaranjan. This technical assistance will include the temporary loan of technical personnel from member firms of the Locomotive Manufacturing Company. As negotiations are still in progress, the terms of service of these technicians have not yet been finalised.

RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVES COACHES AND WAGONS (IMPORT)

***300. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of locomotives, coaches and wagons imported into India during the current financial year and the names of railways for which such imports were made;

(b) how many of these are still on order and from which countries, and by what time these orders are likely to be complied with *in toto*; and

(c) whether Government contemplate to place any further orders in foreign countries or whether steps are being taken to make India self-sufficient in all or any of these items and if so, what is the target date?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) and (b). The information required by the Honourable Member is being placed on the Table of the House (See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 7).

(c) The question of placing further orders abroad is under examination and any further orders for locomotives abroad will depend upon whether the requirements of Indian Railways exceed the indigenous capacity. An order for 50 coaches, however, will be placed shortly in Switzerland. As for wagons, it is intended to call for tenders in India and abroad so as to get the best value for money.

As regards steps taken to make India self sufficient regarding the production of rolling stock, I can assure the House that arrangements to produce locomotives in India have reached an advanced stage and plans are also being drawn up to meet out future requirements of coaches by creating the necessary production organization in the country. In view of the shortage of indigenous capacity, however, it may be necessary to continue imports for some more time.

SURVEY OF ISTIMRARDAR AREA (AJMER-MERWARA)

***301. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps so far towards starting of the Survey and Settlement operations in the Istimrardar area of the Ajmer-Merwara Province and if not, by which date such operations are expected to commence?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The necessary posts have been sanctioned and provision made for expenditure but difficulty is being experienced by the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara in recruiting suitable staff.

ISTIMRARDARI AND JAGIRDARI SYSTEMS (AJMER-MERWARA)

***302. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received from the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, the report of the Advisory Council to the Chief Commissioner, on the question of the abolition of Istimrardari and Jagirdari systems in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to place a copy of the said report, together with the comments of the Chief Commissioner thereon and the representations from the Istimrardars Association and other Institutions thereto on the Table of the House; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take on the said report, and by which date?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the report and of the representation of the Istimrardars Association, Ajmer have been placed in the Library of the House. Copies will also be made available for the Honourable Members of the House. No other representation on the subject has been made to Government. The question of publishing the views of the Chief Commissioner will be decided when the report is fully considered by Government.

(c) Government will come to a decision on the report after the enactment of the Ajmer-Merwara Tenancy and Land Records Bill.

PRODUCTION OF SUGARCANE

***303. { Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:**

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the production of sugarcane per acre of land in India, in Java and in Cuba?

(b) What is the reason for the low production of cane in India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) India—14.70 tons, Java—56.20 tons, Cuba—17.12 tons.

(b) The reasons for low yield of sugarcane in India mainly are:

(i) The sub-tropical climate of the major sugarcane producing areas in India, viz., U.P., Bihar and the Punjab is not ideal for sugarcane.

(ii) The types of cane grown are not all of improved quality from the yield and sucrose content point of view.

(iii) Lack of irrigation facilities.

(iv) Inadequate supply of manures and fertilisers.

(v) Lack of improved implements.

(vi) The individual holdings on which cane is grown are small and modern improved methods of cultivation cannot be fully made applicable to them.

SUGAR INDUSTRY

***304. { Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:**

Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount invested in sugar industry in India;

(b) the extent of protection given to this industry from the very beginning;

(c) whether this industry has ever renovated its machineries or replaced them by new ones;

(d) if so, how many firms did so, and who they are;

(e) the profit earned by these firms from this industry for the last twenty years; and

(f) whether Government propose to cultivate sugarcane on experimental and scientific basis?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The fixed capital invested is fifteen crores.

(b) The Sugar Industry is getting protection from the State since 1932 on the recommendations of the Indian Tariff Board from time to time as shown in the statement laid on the Table of the House (Information placed in the Library. See No. P-36/49).

(c) and (d). There is no detailed record available of the renovations and replacements carried out by the factories.

(e) The information available covers 16 years from 1931-32 to 1946-47 as shown in the statement laid on the Table of the House. Complete information has, however, been called from the Sugar Mills in India.

(f) Yes.

RAILWAY LINK OF QUILON WITH ERNAKULAM

***305. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are intending to open a railway line in the United State of Travancore and Cochin so as to connect Quilon with Ernakulam; and

(b) whether Government have received representations from the Government of Travancore-Cochin regarding this question?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Not immediately.

(b) Yes.

JUTE

***306. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Jute can be cultivated in the low lands in Travancore; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of promoting jute cultivation in Travancore by giving financial aid to jute cultivators in Travancore?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) It is not necessary to give financial assistance to the cultivators of jute because the prices are fairly attractive.

SUBSIDIARY FOODS

***307. Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the progress so far made by the Subsidiary Food Committee in developing production and utilisation of subsidiary foods?

(b) What acreage is being brought under the subsidiary food crops and with what expected yields?

(c) How much money has been allotted for this purpose?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the reply given and statement laid on the Table of the House in answer to starred question No. 109 on 30th November, 1949.

PRINTING OF RAILWAY TICKET

***308. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the answer to my starred question No. 1408 asked on the 25th March, 1949, and state why on the tickets on the E. P. Railway which have now been printed, only a portion of the printed matter is in Gurmukhi script?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: No portion of the printed matter on E.P. Railway tickets is at present in Gurmukhi script. Ticket printing machines for

the Eastern Punjab Railway have now been received and a press is being set up shortly for printing tickets in Gurmukhi script also.

OVERCROWDING OF TRAINS

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

(a) whether Government are aware that passenger trains running between Agra-Delhi and Agra-Kanpur are overcrowded; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the number of passenger trains between the above mentioned stations to minimise overcrowding?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Passenger trains running between Agra and Kanpur and Agra and Delhi by the East Indian Railway route do get crowded on portions of their run. The position on trains between Agra and Delhi by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway route is comparatively easy.

(b) The question of minimising overcrowding generally is under constant review and the number of trains between Agra and Delhi was recently increased.

GRANTS TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES FOR BUILDING HOUSES

***310. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have stopped grants for building houses for the employees of the Railway Administration?

(b) Do these orders affect the E. P. R. as well?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) No; but in view of the difficult ways and means position the funds allotted for the construction of quarters to Railway Administrations during 1949-50 have had to be curtailed by 10 to 25 per cent.

(b) These orders did not affect the E.P. Railway adversely as appreciable additional funds have been placed at their disposal for the construction of staff quarters.

FOOD GRAIN IMPORTS

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

(a) whether Government have studied the facts and arguments advanced by Mr. Ashutosh Bhattacharya in his article in the *Hindustan Times* of 18th November 1949 regarding the need to subsidize home production of food;

(b) whether it is a fact that food grain imports especially wheat and maize are being sold at a higher price than the imported prices and if so, by what percentage;

(c) whether any efforts are being made to minimise any losses on food imports and their final sale to consumers; and if so, with what effect; and

(d) what steps are being taken to minimise distribution costs and with what results?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) No, except in a few areas.

(c) and (d). Yes. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra and consisting of three other Members of this House and an official of the Finance Ministry has been appointed to review the distribution cost to bring about reduction as far as may be found practicable. The recommendations of the Committee are awaited.

INDIAN RAILWAY ENQUIRY COMMITTEE, 1947

***312. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the action taken on the observations made by the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee, 1947 at page 160 of their Report in regard to the constitution of Selection Boards and of associating a representative of the staff as a non-voting observer on the Selection Committee?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The recommendation is under consideration.

There are considerable difficulties in giving effect to this recommendation of the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee. The confidential reports on the staff, whose claims are being considered, are among the most essential factors in the selections and the consequences of making these reports available to other members of the staff may be serious. The selection of the observer will also present difficulty particularly on Railways in which there are two or more recognised Unions. Government, however, hope to be able to reach a decision shortly.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETY, LAHORE

***313. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the prevailing discontent on the Eastern Punjab Railway in regard to the non-refunding of deposits of the most members of the staff with the Co-operative Credit Society, Lahore?

(b) What steps have Government taken to mitigate the hardship caused to such depositors, who are mostly displaced persons, and are awaiting refund of their only savings?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Yes.

(b) In accordance with the decisions taken at the Inter-Dominion Conference on Banking held at Lahore on 22nd and 23rd April, 1949, the East and the West Punjab Governments are to verify the claims and arrange for the payment of the deposits. The Ministry of Railways are pressing the East Punjab Government to get this decision implemented by the Governments of the two Punjab at a very early date.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Tuesday, 6th December, 1949

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

EVACUEE PROPERTIES:

***314. Shri B. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many houses, province by province, have been taken over by Government as evacuee properties?

(b) What is the total value of these houses and the rent realised per mensem?

(c) How are the rents recovered to be administered?

(d) Have Government formulated a plan for the purpose?

(e) If so, what are the details?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e). The rent recovered would normally belong to the evacuee owner and would be payable to him. But the Pakistan Government has failed to recover 'fair' rents or pay them to evacuees in India. With a view to avoiding hardship to the evacuee owners from Pakistan the Government of India have agreed to utilize part of the rents for the purpose of giving maintenance allowance, on account, to displaced widows and old and infirm persons etc. who have no means of livelihood in India and have not received adequate rehabilitation benefits. When final settlement of accounts is made with Pakistan these amounts will be adjusted.

The relevant extract from the Inter-Dominion Agreement and a copy of the Scheme are placed on the Table of the House.

Copy of extract from the Inter-Dominion Agreement reached in 10th/13th January, 1949, relating to urban immovable property.

PART III

... Para 8.—Returns of rental collection information.—The Custodian shall prepare for the six monthly periods ending 30th June and 31st December each year, lists in duplicate for each locality, giving particulars of evacuee urban immovable property situated therein,

the names of evacuee owners, and the lease money assessed, with additional columns showing the rents collected, deductions made therefrom and the balance payable to each evacuee owner.

Para. 9.—Inter-Dominion Adjustment.—The Custodian in each Dominion will send the list thus prepared in duplicate to the Auditor General of their Dominion Government. That Officer will forthwith forward one copy of each list to the Auditor General of the other Dominion and proceed to consolidate the amounts in these lists. The two Auditors-General will adjust the net amount payable by one Dominion to the other through the Exchange Accounts of the two Dominions. If all the lists are not received within two months of the prescribed dates, namely, 30th June and 31st December, by the Auditor-General of the other Dominion, adjustment shall be made to the extent of 50 per cent. of the total amounts in the lists received at the expiry of the said two months, the balance being credited to the account of the Dominion to which it is due as soon as the outstanding lists from that Dominion are received.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the value of the properties which have been declared evacuee property in Bombay?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have said that the information is being collected and when ready will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Has the Honourable Minister received any information from any of the provinces?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether shares and securities are also considered to be evacuee property?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No; unless they relate to the evacuee property itself.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How do Government intend to administer these rents which are recovered from the evacuee properties?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have already answered that these rents will be deposited with the Custodian. Part of them will be utilised for giving maintenance allowance on account to displaced widows and old and infirm persons, etc., who have no other means of subsistence, and have not received any rents from their properties in Pakistan.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Are these evacuee properties given only to displaced persons or to others also?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Generally to displaced persons.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know how far the recent Evacuee Property Ordinance has affected the acquisition of evacuee property by the Custodian General?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: We have no information so far; but the effect is going to be very little.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it a fact that recently 500 houses in U.P. have been released from the Custodian General?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have not received any information.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have any instances come to the notice of the Government where out of a number of properties which were taken over according to the previous ordinance most of them have now been released after the coming into force of the second Ordinance?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I think it is not so. Some of them have been released, but not most of them.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Would the Honourable Minister give the approximate amount of rent realised per mensem?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I can give only the rent realised in Delhi. The assessed rent is about three to four lakhs per month, but realisations vary from 30 to 50 per cent.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How many properties in Delhi have been declared as evacuee property?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Between thirty and forty thousand.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: How much of this rent realised from evacuee property is being paid to the evacuees and how much is kept with the Government?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As a matter of fact we have just prepared a scheme which is to be worked. No allowances have so far been given. The number of applications received in Delhi alone comes to 12,000. I do not know how many of them will be entitled to get an allowance; and then there will be applications from other provinces. I am not in a position to give any definite figure about the amount that will have to be paid on account of these allowances.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Have the Government formulated any plan so far as the properties themselves are concerned for their allotment to the refugees?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know how the taking over of evacuee property by Government has affected the tenants occupying such evacuee properties? Have they been ejected from them?

Mr. Speaker: It is a very general question.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: They have not been ejected, if they were occupying those properties before they were taken over.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that a large number of Hindus who are owners of properties that have been declared evacuee property by reason of the evacuee tenants having left those properties have not yet received their rents from the Custodian and that large amounts of rents are still in arrears? If so, what is the total amount of such rents?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is a fact that many of the tenancies taken over were declared evacuee property; but about six months ago we apprised the owners of the houses and the properties to realise the rents themselves.

KASHMIR PLEBISCITE

*315. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state who bears the present expenses of the U.N.O. Commission (Kashmir) in India?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): The United Nations.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether this question came up before the Commission and the budget was presented.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: It was contended that the respective parties—India and Pakistan—have to pay.....

Mr. Speaker: The reply is clear. The United Nations bear the expenditure.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I only wanted to know the discussion that took place in the U.N. Commission.....

Mr. Speaker: I do not think we can go into that.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the plebiscite officers' salaries will also be paid by the United Nations?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: That question does not arise for the moment. When the formalities of the plebiscite are taken up then only this question will be considered.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: How long is the U.N. Commission scheduled to remain in India? In the absence of any agreed conditions between the parties for a plebiscite.....

Mr. Speaker: The question assumes so much.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What is the total expenditure so far on the Commission?

An Honourable Member: Ask the U.N.O.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

ANTI-INDIAN BROADCAST BY PEIPING RADIO

*316. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Peiping Radio has been using objectionable language against India and the Prime Minister?

(b) Is it a fact that the use of such language was in connection with false news regarding Tibet?

(c) Have Government taken any steps in this matter?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) to (c). It is a fact that the Peiping Radio used such language in connection with certain news regarding Tibet. This news had no basis in fact and was contradicted in the Press. Government have taken no other steps in the matter. In the peculiar circumstances prevailing now it was not considered necessary to take any further step.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that similar language has been used by the Peiping Government in their reply to the telegram of felicitations addressed to them by the Communist Party of India, as reported in the papers recently?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not compared the language in either. Probably similar sentiments have been expressed.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Now that the question of recognition of the Communist Government in China is on the anvil, will this matter be brought to the notice of that Government before the question is finally decided?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Probably not.

FARES ON SHIPS ON KONKAN COAST

*317. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have set up a Board of Enquiry to go into the question of increase of passenger fares by 50 per cent. on ships plying on the Konkan Coast?

(b) If so, what are the names of the members of this Committee and their terms of reference?

(c) Have the Committee submitted their report?

(d) Have Government taken any decision on the same?

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

(b) I place on the Table copy of a Press Note issued at the time the Board was set up which furnishes the information asked for. (See Appendix IX, annexure No. 1.)

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the percentage of increase the companies have made?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have got a long list of the rates of the passenger fares charged by them according to the different classes. If my Honourable friend is interested in that I could show it to him. I find that in some cases the percentage of increase is about fifty, but it would not be uniform in all cases.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know how many liners run on this route? Is it confined to one company or is there more than one company?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have not got the information before me just now.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: When is the report of the Board likely to be made?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is very difficult to say that because it depends upon the cooperation which is available to the Board from the various interests concerned.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: But has the Board proceeded with its work?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes.

TEXTILE GOODS

*318. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the present position of textile goods in the country?

(b) Is it a fact that in Bombay and Ahmedabad large quantities of textile goods were lying undisposed of and if so, what is the quantity and value thereof and what are the reasons for not disposing them of?

(c) Since the new order of Government how much has been disposed of?

(d) Is it a fact that manufacturers have turned out more coarse cloth than superfine cloth?

(e) What is the quantity of superfine cloth in the stock now in Bombay and Ahmedabad?

(f) Has import of foreign textiles been regulated and if so, to what extent?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) There is no shortage of cotton textiles at present. On the other hand, internal off-take is definitely low, while there has been a welcome increase in exports.

(b) On the 29th October, 1949, the Mills in Bombay held about 67,000 bales of cloth, which were less than a month's production. The Mills in Ahmedabad

held about 81,500 bales of cloth equivalent to about five weeks production. These stocks were not, therefore, unduly large.

(c) The distribution system was relaxed on the 10th September, 1949. On the 3rd September, 1949 the total stocks held in Bombay and Ahmedabad were about 1,89,000 bales. On the 29th October, as I have already stated, the stocks in these two areas were about 1,47,500 bales. Taking the whole of India, the stocks held in the Mills on the 3rd September, 1949 were 3,84,000 bales. On the 29th October they were 2,76,000 bales.

(d) No.

(e) It is estimated that superfine cloth constitutes about 14 per cent. of the stocks held in Bombay and 18 per cent. of the stocks held at Ahmedabad.

(f) Until the 28th July, 1949 the imports of cotton fabrics and cotton yarn were on the Open General Licence. Since that date the imports have been completely stopped except in respect of commitments made before that date.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What was the total amount of the imports of foreign textiles in the current year?

Mr. Speaker: Does he mean the yardage or the price?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The price.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: From July, 1948 to September, 1949 the figures were: Yarn Rs. 5,93,85,000; Others Rs. 2,59,33,000; Knitted Fabrics Rs. 68,000—the total being about Rs. 8 crores.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Government of Bombay has written to the Government of India that unless they have adequate production control in regard to these manufactures there will be no effect on the ceiling prices, and if so what steps the Government of India are taking in this direction?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid such questions will not be admissible.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I ask whether the textile industry manufactures voils, mulls, drills and sarees of nine yards?

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

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that due to the shortage of these, coarse cloth is produced to a greater extent and therefore at one time there was a great accumulation of cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The total coarse production will be about 20 per cent.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know what is the extent of our commitments to import textiles during the course of the year?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There are no commitments as such, but those for which irrevocable credits have been opened we have agreed to honour. I believe my Honourable friend the Commerce Minister will be able to indicate what is the date which has been fixed beyond which even such commitments will not be honoured.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I wanted the approximate value of the goods likely to be imported.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not got any information on that.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Arising out of the reply to part (a), may I know why the internal off-take of textiles is so low? Is it because of high prices?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe that is one of the reasons, that is, prices are higher than what the consumers are willing to pay—also quality.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Is the number of offences in regard to textile goods—offences on the part of manufacturers and traders—on the increase or on the decrease?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They are somewhat stationary.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know what was the amount of imports from the dollar area?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The imports during the O.G.L. period were entirely from soft currency countries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the countries to which our exports have gone up?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not got the names of the countries here—I answered the question a few days ago.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Is it a fact that on account of the accumulation of stocks in Kotah, Merwara and Bhilwara, textile mills had to close down, one mill totally, and the Kishengarh mill twice stopped working and is working now only with a limited number of workers?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I cannot say about particular mills, but certain mills did close down during the period. Some have, however, reopened in their entirety or have opened with one shift.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: In view of the stringency of foreign exchange do Government still propose to import foreign cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, we do not propose to do that.

Shri Ram Chandra Upadhyaya: May I know how much we are exporting?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: This year we expect to export 800 million yards. The monthly average has come to between 55 and 60 million yards.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: May I know if any complaints have been received by Government regarding the unfairness in the process of price fixation of the internal cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The price structure was examined by the Tariff Board last year. Of course there is a general complaint that the prices are higher than what the consumers are able to pay.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I understood the Honourable Minister to say that it is not the policy of the Government to stop the import of foreign cloth. If that is so may I know.....

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: My answer was just the negative.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know how much of the 800 million yards which they hope to export is hand-woven?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I take it that my Honourable friend means handloom. The quantity is small. In fact we have given free permission for the export of handloom cloth. But unfortunately the demand for it is much less than what it was previously.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any licences were issued in September and October for the import of foreign cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No.

INDIANS IN BURMA

†*319. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the total number of Indians (who were settled in Burma) who have come to India since trouble started in that country?

(b) How many Indians have been killed, injured and are missing and how much property have they lost in Burma?

(c) Have the Government of Burma imposed certain restrictions over the sale of properties belonging to Indians and if so, what is the total value of such properties?

(d) What steps have Government taken to protect the interest of Indian nationals in Burma?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) The total number of Indians, who have returned to India since the commencement of civil strife in Burma in January, 1949, is roughly 50,000, of whom 12,000 were destitutes and were repatriated by the Indian Embassy in Rangoon at the expense of the Government of India.

(b) No reliable figures are available. According to reports received from time to time by the Indian Embassy in Rangoon, the total number of Indians killed is about 200, injured 16 and missing 20. It is not possible to estimate the loss suffered by Indians all over Burma, because lack of communications makes any computation impossible.

(c) The Government of Burma have not imposed any restrictions over sale of properties belonging to Indians, as such. The Transfer of Immovable Property (Restriction) Act, which became law in Burma two years ago, however, prohibits the sale of any immovable property to a non-Burmese national and this applies to all foreigners, including Indians.

(d) Representations have been made on several occasions to the Government of Burma to afford adequate protection to Indian nationals, especially those still in the service of the Government of Burma. Officers of the Indian Embassy have visited areas most affected by the present troubles in Burma, to afford necessary advice and assistance to Indians. In March, 1949, the Embassy organised the evacuation of about 5,000 Indian nationals from Insein, which had fallen to the Karens. Again in August last, the Military Attache and other officials of the Embassy visited Toungoo and Taunggyi, the latter after its capture by Karens and successfully evacuated about 850 Indians from these areas. It has also been made clear to the insurgent groups in Burma, on all possible occasions, that Indians in Burma are taking no part in the present conflict and, as neutral foreign nationals, are entitled to protection by all the parties.

PLAGUE INFECTION FROM INDIA TO PERU

†*320. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that plague infection was carried from India in jute bags to Peru and if so, whether the bags contained dead rats?

(b) Has any enquiry been made and if so, with what result?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) While such allegations have been made, it has not been established that plague infection was carried from India in jute bags to Peru.

(b) In view of the allegations, an investigation was taken in hand. In May, 1949, however, the Indian Commercial Secretary at Rio de Janeiro informed us that the Peruvian Health Ministry and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau were of the opinion that no outbreak of plague in Peru had any apparent relation with jute importations during the past two years and that since 1947 no importation of infected fleas from India had been detected in Peru. In view of this, further investigation has been deferred for the present.

IMPORT PERMITS AGAINST DOLLAR ALLOTMENT

*321. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the total amount of Dollar currency which Government had allotted for imports for the year 1949-50?

(b) What is the total amount of the import permits issued up to date against this allotment?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The import programme is prepared for six-monthly periods, namely, January-June and July-December. Dollars are allotted separately for each period. The allocation made for the licensing of commercial imports from dollar areas during the period July-December, 1949 is Rs. 38½ crores. The ceiling for the licensing of commercial imports during the period January-June, 1950 has not yet been fixed.

(b) Licences for about Rs. 11 crores have been granted for imports from dollar areas during the period September to November, 1949 after the temporary ban on dollar licensing was removed early in September.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have any instructions been issued to the effect that no consumer goods whatsoever are to be imported from dollar areas?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: There is no question of instructions being issued; no licences are issued for that purpose.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are licences being issued for the import of machinery needed for sugar mills?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am not in a position to state specifically about the position of sugar mills, but essential machinery which cannot be obtained from the sterling areas would of course be permitted to be imported from dollar areas.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Are licences being issued from dollar area for consumer goods for producing things here, as for instance, plastic powder etc.?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: They are in the nature of raw materials for industry and licences for such goods are issued on the basis of essentiality.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if any import permit has been granted to any trader in the province of Assam or to any trader outside Assam for the benefit of the province of Assam?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I am not in a position to give that information.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are Government sure that the total amount of the licences issued did not exceed the quota fixed for the dollar area for the six months?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is generally kept in view, but my

Honourable friend would realize that licences granted during a particular period may not be effective till that period is over, because it takes some time for the goods to arrive and therefore it is not very easy to correlate the period of licensing with the period of arrival of goods.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made to restrict at least in part the import of raw films and also the usual films that are being imported from America?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Every such item has had to sustain a cut.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Are medicines allowed to be imported from the dollar area?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, medicines of a special variety such as those that are not easily available in sterling areas.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Was any import licence for motor cars issued from September onwards?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The motor car imports have been stopped of late. Motor trucks would be permitted to come in up to a particular limit.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has any licence been recently issued for the import of 30,000 tons of vaseline?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should like to have notice of that question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Would the Government permit an open discussion on the policy of Government with regard to import and export in the House some day?

An Honourable Member: It will come in the Budget debate.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that we have suffered adverse balance to a great extent on account of export and import business.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is public property.

TEXTILE CONTROL

***322. Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

- the total expenditure incurred on the Textile Control Board annually; and
- the total expenditure incurred on the administration of textile controls?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix IX annexure No. 2.)

PROPERTY OF MR. LIAQUAT ALI KHAN

***323. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total value of properties left in the Indian Union by the Pakistan Premier, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan?

(b) What is the present income from those properties?

(c) What is the total income received by the Pakistan Premier after the partition of the country up to date from his properties left in the Indian Union?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The total value of Mr. Liaquat Ali's properties in U.P. and Delhi is estimated at about Rs. 4 lakhs. Information regarding his property in East Punjab is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The present annual income from his properties in U.P. is about Rs. 55,000. The net income of his property in Delhi is Rs. 1,708/6/10.

(c) He is reported to have received about Rs. 85,000 since the partition from his properties in U.P., but nothing has been remitted to him on account of his property in Delhi.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether all the taxes due to Government in respect of this property have been paid?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I presume they must have been paid; but I would like to have notice of this question.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What is the present condition of the residential house of Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan? Is it under lock and key or has it been given on rent to some other person?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I believe the Honourable Member is referring to the house occupied by the Pakistan High Commissioner. That is not owned by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, but by Begum Liaquat Ali Khan and is, therefore, not covered by this question.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan had to pay income-tax for this property and to what amount?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I would like to have notice of this question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the position with regard to the property of Mr. Jinnah?

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise out of this question.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if Government have kept any record of the moneys received by the refugees in India for their properties left behind in Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: They have not been received through the Government.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Apart from the income of these properties, may I know if Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan's property has been allotted to refugees?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I would require notice of this question; but, I believe, it must have been allotted to refugees.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether the properties belonging to Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan which were exchanged between Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan and Sir Datar Singh have been acquired back by the Indian Government or not?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As a matter of fact, there was no such exchange and the property was taken over by the custodian.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Has Begum Liaquat Ali Khan migrated to Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I presume she has.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Why is it that while the income from the property

in U.P. has been remitted to him the income from the property in Delhi has not been remitted?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The Honourable Member must be aware that about two months back each province had a separate Evacuee Property law and the Central Government had no power of superintendence and control as it has got under the new Evacuee Property Ordinance. Therefore, remittances were being permitted by certain provincial governments. But now they have all been stopped.

WAR REPARATIONS

***324. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether India has received anything as reparations in connection with the last Great War?

(b) If so, what are they and from what countries were they received?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). Yes. Reparations are being received at present only from Germany in the form of capital equipment consisting of plant and machinery, described as category B reparations. The value of such equipment received up to the end of October, 1949 amounts to about Rs. 2.41 crores. In addition German external assets in India amounting to about Rs. 2.2 crores will accrue as India's share of category A reparations. India is further entitled to a proportionate share of German assets in neutral countries and also a due share under the U.S.S.R. Reciprocal Delivery Scheme. The value of assets of both these kinds so far received by India amounts to about Rs. 5 lakhs.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether any reparations have been allotted and received by India from Japan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I am answering a question only in regard to Germany. I should like to have notice of that question.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What percentage of the reparations received by India has been allotted to Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have not got the information before me just now.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know what was originally claimed by India as reparations and what India has actually got?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have not got that information before me.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know the main categories of goods that have been brought into this country so far by way of reparations?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have a very long list of plants and machinery here. It runs into several hundred items—there are 14,268 items. It is very difficult for me to categorize these items.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that some time ago Government was considering the question of forgoing further reparations inasmuch as the Congress Party which is now in power was opposed to the last war?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: At least I am not aware of such a thing. I don't remember having seen any paper on that.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Sir, may I, with your permission, draw the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Minister to the fact that question

324 of Dr. Mono Mohon Das is a very comprehensive question and there is no categorization as to the reparations received from Germany and Japan and therefore that question includes both Japan and Germany and other countries also?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact, I don't think we have received anything from Japan yet.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Have any capital goods been received by way of reparations from Germany and if so what use has been made of them? Also, may I know whether those goods were found useful in this country?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: A part of the plant and machinery received has already been allocated. There is a procedure under which the Provincial Governments and the other interests concerned are in a position to scrutinize the list of reparation articles received in India and then put in requisitions for them; some of the stuff has already been distributed by this procedure and other materials are awaiting such distribution.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: Is it a fact that machineries received in Bombay are entirely useless?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I cannot definitely say as regards Bombay but I have a general impression that some of the stuff received may not be very useful.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: May I know how much of this capital equipment is actually being utilised by the Government or the industries and how much is lying idle?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: They are in the process of being allocated to different authorities. It is very difficult to say at the moment how much has been actually utilised.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that Mahatma Gandhi was opposed to receiving any reparations.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if there was any inspection made of these articles before they were brought from Germany?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Inspection on the spot?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Possibly, yes.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What other reparations will India receive in future, or has everything been received?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not everything. The process goes on.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: I want to know what we are going to receive in the future.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It depends on the various claims that are put forward by the various countries that are entitled to reparation. What happens is this. There is a list of articles that are available for purposes of satisfying reparations claims of Allied countries and each country thereafter puts in a claim on the basis of its own requirements. Then there is a body that goes into these various claims and finally adjudges the quantum and the character of the reparation articles that might be issued to each country.

MILK PRODUCTS

***325. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories in different provinces and states that manufacture milk powder and other milk products;

(b) the total quantities of such milk powder and milk products imported into India during the year 1948-49 and the values of such imports; and

(c) whether any protection was given by Government to the local manufacturers of milk powder and milk products?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Milk powder is not manufactured at present in the country. There are 32 factories producing milk products, mainly butter. There are two factories capable of producing milk powder, but production has been suspended for want of adequate supply of fluid milk in the area where they are situated.

(b) A statement showing the imports of milk powder and milk products during 1948-49 and their values is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix IX, annexure No. 3.)

(c) No, Sir.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the present dollar scarcity in the country has resulted in reducing appreciably the import of milk products into India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Future imports will be restricted no doubt.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know from what countries these milk products are being imported into India—dollar or sterling areas?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Mainly from sterling areas—Australia sends us a large quantity.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Has the Government taken any action to restrict these imports up to now?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Licences will be restricted.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know why action has not been taken by Government to stop this wasteful expenditure so far?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether Government will consider the desirability of not restricting these milk imports because they are essential for the health of the country, especially of children?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government will bear in mind both the points of view expressed by Mr. Tyagi and Dr. Das.

HEAVY CHEMICALS INDUSTRY

***326. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the number of factories in different provinces and states that manufacture heavy chemicals in this country?

(b) What percentage of our total demand in heavy chemicals is being met by local manufacture?

(c) Is there any association of such manufacturers?

(d) Has any protection from Government been asked by such manufacturers?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix IX, annexure No. 4.)

(b) Sulphuric Acid—100 per cent.

Caustic Soda—10 per cent.

Liquid Chlorine—100 per cent.

Bleaching Powder—20 per cent.

Bichromate—100 per cent.

Soda Ash—83 per cent.

(c) Yes, two.

(d) Yes, by the following:

(i) Caustic Soda Industry, (ii) Soda Ash Industry and (iii) Bichromate Industry.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What are the reasons for which our national industries cannot compete with foreign industries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The main thing is that the production in the country today is less than what the country can consume and sometimes its quality is poor.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Sir, I want to know about prices. Why can our national industries not compete in prices with foreign industries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as these particular chemicals are concerned we are competing; not only competing, we are actually exporting one or two of these chemicals to foreign countries.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: If the question of competition does not arise then what is the necessity of giving protection?

Mr. Speaker: That is an argument.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: What steps are being taken to improve our output of caustic soda?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We had received applications from several prospective manufacturers and we have given licences to them; but they have not been able to utilise them mainly because of their inability to raise capital. One concern has put up a scheme before us which will increase the capacity from 20 to 25 tons per day, and that is expected to come into operation from January next.

HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT LIMITED

***327. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aircraft Limited is producing any kind of aircraft;

(b) if so, what type or types;

(c) if not, when it is expected to start such production; and

(d) how many rail coaches have been built by the Hindustan Aircraft Limited during the last twelve months?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) to (c). Prentice Trainer aircraft are being manufactured at Hindustan Aircraft Limited. Three types of Trainer aircraft are being developed by Hindustan Aircraft Limited. After the prototypes have been flown the programme of production will be finalised.

(d) Fortynine.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When was this work of production of trainer aircraft commenced?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Prentice aircraft production commenced last year. The main difficulty was with regard to propellers and engines which had to be imported from the U.K. The delay in receiving them really held up the assembling and manufacture programme in India.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any production plan or are we just going at random?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is the Prentice aircraft in use in England or in any other country, or is it out of date now?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, it is used in England and we have evolved our programmes in consultation with the Ministry in the U.K.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it fast giving way to other types of aircraft?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have another scheme for the assembling and manufacture of a fighter type of aircraft of a foreign design under a licensing system and that has also been finalised.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: When was that contract finalised and what kind of aircraft has the Hindustan Aircraft Factory been manufacturing after it has been finalised?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The contract will be with a British firm and the particular type of aircraft is in accordance with the proposal which has been made by the Ministry of Defence.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Is the Government aware that this kind of aircraft is out of date and will not be of great use in future?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Arising out of answer to part (b), may I know whether the type or types have the approval of the Ministry of Defence?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Entirely. We are assembling and manufacturing on the recommendation of the Ministry of Defence and we are in close touch with them.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many foreign technicians are employed in this factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: At present we have nine, I believe. The term of office of two of them expires sometime next year, with the result that we will have seven with us.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are all of them British?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I think two are British and five are American.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government taking any steps, Sir, to see that Indian technicians themselves will be able to carry on this work once that contract comes to an end?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That, in fact, is our policy. I may say that we have been able to secure the services of a world renowned technical expert, Professor Messersmidt, who is expected to arrive in India in the course of one month.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Does the Hindustan Aircraft Factory manufacture aeroplanes, or is it only an assembling factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is both. It is our aim to manufacture as many of the parts and components in India as possible. So far as the engine is concerned, we have not been able to manufacture it.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: How long has the Hindustan Aircraft Factory taken to be in a position to manufacture Prentice Aircraft and how long will it take to produce proto-type of a new design?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the Prentice programme is concerned, according to existing programme we expect to complete thirty air frames in the course of 1950. Our capacity to produce them will depend on the regular availability of engines and propellers which programme has now been fixed up. So far as the proto-type is concerned, it is expected that we shall be able to use the type completely manufactured in Bangalore for demonstration purposes by the middle of 1950.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the General Manager of the factory a technician or has he got any technical experience at all?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, he is not a technician.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not necessary to have a Manager who has got technical experience?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Arising out of answer to part (d) that 49 coaches have been built, may I know what is the total number for which orders have been placed and how many coaches are being built per month?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: One hundred is the order placed for the existing model and another one hundred for the new model. We expect to manufacture ten coaches per month.

RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

*328. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded recognition to the State of Israel; and

(b) if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India have had the question of the recognition of Israel under constant review. Israel is now a member of the United Nations and its recognition by other member States cannot obviously be indefinitely deferred. The Government of India would like to act in this matter, which has been the subject of some controversy among nations with whom we have friendly relations, that would

avoid misunderstanding or ill-feeling and hope that a satisfactory decision will be possible in the near future.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact, Sir, that as far back as August 1948 the Prime Minister told the House that the matter has been under examination and even in March 1949 (I am reading from the official report of the proceedings of the Assembly) the Prime Minister, in reply to a question of mine as to whether Israel is an established State, replied that "it is undoubtedly a State which is functioning as such; and the Honourable Member's opinion about its having come to stay may be correct"?

In view of this how long will this question pend for final decision?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member is himself aware what tremendous attention has been paid to this matter in the course of the past year.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How long will it take for the Government of India to arrive at a decision?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been replied to.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the question of recognition of Israel has been delayed mainly owing to its geographical or rather 'geopolitical' position?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, I do not propose to allow that question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know from the Honourable the Prime Minister whether the recognition of the State necessarily involves our sending over an Ambassador?

REVISION OF TARIFF RATES

†*329. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether in view of the changes in the prices of various commodities from the dollar and the sterling areas, Government propose to revise the tariff rates and if so, to what extent?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is not the practice of Government to alter rates of import duty merely on account of fluctuations in the level of prices. But when fixing tariff values Government will take into account all relevant factors including any increase in the level of prices.

INDIAN EMBASSIES

†*330. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the Indian Embassies abroad during the year 1948-49;

(b) whether all the items of expenditure are controlled by the Ministry of External Affairs, and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to make retrenchments in this respect?

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

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) The total expenditure incurred on the Indian Embassies including Legations, Consulates and High Commissioners in Commonwealth countries, is estimated at Rs. 175 lakhs. This excludes the cost of officers and staff belonging to other Ministries such as Trade Commissioners, Education Officers, and Military Attaches, etc.

(b) Yes.

(c) A number of measures have been adopted to effect economies in the expenditure, which have been referred to in detail in my reply to starred question No. 22 by Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi on 28th November, 1949.

EAST BENGAL REFUGEES

*331. **Shri Arun Chandra Guha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for the rehabilitation of refugees from East Bengal has been adopted and put into operation in West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Orissa; and

(b) whether any housing scheme has yet been taken up for these refugees?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes.

(b) Housing schemes are under execution in West Bengal and Bihar.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: How many houses have been built in Bengal?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am not in a position to give the figures, but I should like to inform the Honourable Member that there is a housing scheme which is being executed at Habra township.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: But have any houses been built at all?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Houses have been built. I am afraid I have not got the exact number; but if the Honourable Member requires the information, I shall supply it to him.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: How many houses have been built in Assam?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No houses have been built in Assam. As a matter of fact, in Assam even the rehabilitation schemes have not been finalised; they are in the course of preparation.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is the township of Habra being built at the expense of the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is being built at the expense of the Government of India.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May we know whether Assam has taken the number of refugees agreed to between the Government of India and the province of Assam? What is the number taken by Assam and may we know whether they have been rehabilitated or not?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: In fact, there was no agreement about the number to be taken; but according to the census recently taken the number of displaced persons in Assam is 1,14,500.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Will the Honourable Minister please state how many refugees from East Bengal are without houses in Bihar, Orissa and Assam?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Well, I could not give the number of persons without houses. But I have received complaints from

Assam that many of these persons are living either with their relatives or in the houses which they have taken on rent and that they have to pay exorbitant rents. We have impressed on the Government of Assam to go ahead with their housing schemes.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Will the Honourable Minister of State say whether the Assam Government as such has rehabilitated any of the refugees that have gone there?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I do not know; but the Assam Government has informed us that they have been rehabilitated.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know what is the total amount of money that has been placed at the disposal of the various Provincial Governments by the Central Government for housing these refugees up till now?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I would refer the Honourable Member to a review prepared by the Ministry of Rehabilitation giving the progress of rehabilitation up to the 31st of October.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Can the Honourable Minister give us any idea of the approximate number of East Bengal refugees rehabilitated in these four provinces?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I could give some information about West Bengal, but not about the other provinces, and some information about Bihar also.

DISPLACED PERSONS IN RELIEF CAMPS

†*332. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many relief camps are being run by the Government of India?

(b) What is the number of displaced persons living in these camps?

(c) What is the number of displaced persons who are still being provided with free rations?

(d) What is the number of able-bodied persons who can earn their own living but are getting free rations?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Two camps, one at Jammu and the other at Yole for displaced persons from the enemy-held areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) 41,418.

(c) 38,899.

(d) Most of them are able-bodied persons or dependants of such persons.

ECONOMY IN REHABILITATION SCHEMES

†*333. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any economy proposed in the rehabilitation schemes for refugees now in Delhi;

(b) whether Government are aware that well-deserving applications for rehabilitation loans have been axed on the plea of economy;

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

(c) whether Government are aware that loan applications are kept pending for months; and

(d) whether Government propose to give an assurance that rehabilitation schemes will not be affected by economy measures?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) and (b). No.

(c) Loan applications from individuals, Co-operatives, etc., are being dealt with as expeditiously as possible by different committees constituted by the Chief Commissioners. All applications for individual loans from inmates of camps have been disposed of. The applications from groups of displaced artisans living outside are being considered.

(d) I am afraid, it is not possible to give any categorical assurance. Every effort will nevertheless be made to that end.

INDIA'S TRADE BALANCE

*334. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state India's balance of trade month-wise from April 1949 up to date?

(b) What steps did Government take to minimise the adverse balance?

(c) In which month were the steps taken?

(d) Have the measures taken yielded appreciable results and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) A statement showing India's balance of trade for the period April-October, 1949 is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix IX, annexure No. 5.)

(b) and (c). With a view to minimising the adverse trade balance, Government took the following measures to tighten up the Import Trade Control, namely:

(i) cancellation of the Open General Licence XI under which imports without licences were allowed from sterling and soft currency countries, on 5th May, 1949, and its substitution on 19th May 1949 by Open General Licence XV which was much smaller in scope. Open General Licence XV was modified on the 28th July, 1949, by removing certain items like cotton piecegoods, cotton yarn, woollen piecegoods, wood and timber, art silk yarn, etc., and subsequently cancelled on the 25th August, 1949. It was replaced by the issue on the same day of Open General Licence No. XVI which covered only 24 items,

(ii) suspension of issue of licences for imports from dollar and hard currency countries from the 25th June to 7th September, 1949,

(iii) prohibition of licences for luxury goods from May 1949, and

(iv) framing of the licensing policy for imports for the July-December 1949 period with a view to severely restricting imports from all sources.

Regarding exports, Government appointed an Export Promotion Committee in July, 1949, to recommend ways and means for stepping up our exports particularly to dollar and hard currency areas. The Committee submitted its Report on the 15th September 1949 and Government's decisions on its recommendations have been announced in a Resolution dated the 8th November, 1949, a copy of which is also laid on the Table of the House. Other measures

taken by Government to encourage exports have been the following:

- (i) Relaxation of export control in regard to as many commodities as possible,
- (ii) Centralisation of Export Control work under Commerce Ministry.
- (iii) Simplification of export procedure in respect of controlled commodities.

(d) As will be seen from the statement laid on the Table of the House there has been an appreciable reduction in our adverse balance of trade as a result of the measures adopted by Government.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know when this Open General License was first issued last time and what was the adverse balance then?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have already given a reference to all the various open general licenses.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it open to anybody to import any article at the present moment without a licence and if so how many articles can be thus imported.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not at all, except in the case of a very few articles which are in the nature of capital equipment or say, machinery parts, or essential raw materials, which are still on the open general license, and their number is twenty-four.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know what progress has been made by the State Trading Committee appointed by the Government and whether they have submitted any interim report, and are any steps being taken on that report?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not yet.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In view of the colossal adverse balance, of twelve hundred twenty million rupees within five months, may I know whether the attention of the Honourable Minister was drawn by his Ministry within this period, or after that period, when the loss had already occurred?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I wonder whether the Honourable Member was present at the debate that took place on devaluation in this House, when all these facts were fully explained by my Honourable colleague the Finance Minister, and also by myself.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: But by that time the loss had already been sustained.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: But the loss was fully accounted for.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether the Honourable Minister has any figures to show whether the adverse balance has been met by the measures which have been adopted by Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is very difficult to say yet, but we are hopeful that with the spurt that our exports have received as a result of the new policy, the position is going to improve steadily.

IMPORTS FROM DOLLAR AREAS

*335. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister or Commerce be pleased to state the total value of dollars spent over the import of the following commodities during the period from 1st April to 30th September,

1949 (i) Cosmetics, (ii) Plastic-manufactures, (iii) Luxury cars, (iv) Silk, and (v) Ornamental articles of glass?

(b) What is the total value in dollars of food imported from the U.S.A. and other dollar areas during the above period?

(c) Did Government make any attempts to get the above supplies of food from non-dollar areas?

(d) What is the total value in dollars of foodstuffs other than foodgrains imported from the U.S.A.?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (d). As any mere figures that I may give are apt to give an incorrect impression, I place on the Table of the House a detailed explanatory statement. (See Appendix IX, annexure No. 6.)

The position briefly, however, is as follows:

(i) No licences for imports of Cosmetics or any toilet requisites from dollar area were granted after December 1947 (when sterling had ceased to be freely convertible) excepting for a small licence for Rs. 5,000 to the Indian Motion Picture Producers Association for make-up materials.

(ii) *Plastic Manufactures*.—This general description covers a wide variety of goods. However, of the various plastic manufactures only licences for plastic tubes or sheeting were being granted from 1st January 1948 as these were required for the manufacture of fountain pens, hand-bags, purses, *chappals*, etc. Licences were granted subject to a monetary ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs in a half year. Even this is not permitted on the policy for the current half year.

(iii) *Cars*.—Licences for imports of cars from dollar area were granted since January 1948 only for the import in completely knocked down condition of the components of cars for assembly in India. A limited ceiling of Rs. 5,000 originally, later of Rs. 5,500 per unit of C. K. D. car was fixed and the more expensive cars therefore could not be imported. The total value of imports of cars from dollar area during the period April—September amounted to Rs. 55,38,281. In the policy for the current half year, as settled even before devaluation, no licences are being issued for the import of any dollar motor cars.

(iv) *Silk*.—Imports of Raw Silk during this period are nil while imports of silk manufactures were negligible—only goods worth Rs. 23.

(v) *Ornamental articles of glass*.—The information is not available as figures of imports of this article are not maintained separately. No licences for the import of the article were issued from dollar area after 1st January 1948.

(vi) *Foodstuffs other than food grains, pulse and flour*.—The total value of imports amounted to Rs. 36,47,339. These imports mainly consisted of skimmed milk powder and infant milk food, licences for which were being granted on a restricted basis to cover essential requirements.

(b) The value of food grains imported from dollar areas during the half year ending September 1949, was 22 million dollars.

(c) Yes. Purchases from dollar areas are normally resorted to only after exploring all possibilities of getting foodgrains from Sterling areas. No purchases of foodgrains have been made from dollar areas after June 1949.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I suggest, Sir, that supplementary questions to this question may be allowed tomorrow?

Mr. Speaker: No.

Shri Doshbandhu Gupta: It is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: May be; I am sorry.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

IMPORT OF AMERICAN COTTON TEXTILES

*336. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what part of earnings in dollar, if any, was spent in importing American cotton textiles?

(b) Was it not possible for Government to avoid the imports referred to in part (a) above?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) In the absence of an indication of the specific period for which information is required by the Honourable Member, it is not possible to give any information. I may mention, however, that no imports of cotton textiles from dollar areas were licensed after December 1947 when sterling ceased to be freely convertible into dollars.

(b) Does not arise.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES EMPORIUM

*337. Shri C. Subramaniam: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what is the monthly expenditure in the Cottage Industries Emporium at New Delhi incurred (i) by way of salaries; and (ii) by other services?

(b) What is the total number of persons employed and what are their scales of pay?

(c) Is there any proposal to extend and increase the activities of the Emporium?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) (i) Rs. 3,057. (ii) Rs. 247.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix IX, annexure No. 7.)

(c) Yes.

HANDLOOM CLOTH

*338. Shri C. Subramaniam: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to make a statement on the work so far done by the Handloom Development Board?

(b) Is it a fact that there is a great accumulation of handloom cloth and if so, what is the estimated value of the stock?

(c) Are Government taking any steps to give relief to the handloom industry to tide over the present crisis?

(d) Is there any proposal to purchase handloom cloth for the Army and other governmental purposes and if so, what would be the extent of such purchases?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A statement is laid on the Table. (See Appendix IX, annexure No. 8.)

(b) The information so far received indicates that the total stocks of handloom cloth are about 125 million yards valued at Rs. 12 crores. This represents five weeks production.

(c) Yes. A statement indicating the measures taken is laid on the Table. (See Appendix IX, annexure No. 9.)

(d) I have already replied to this question. If the handloom industry is able to supply goods of the requisite quality to the extent of one-third of Government of India requirements, the purchases will amount to roughly a crore of rupees.

PROTECTED INDUSTRIES

*339. Shri O. V. Alagesan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what is the control, if any, exercised by the Government of India on the Industries to which protection is granted on the recommendation of the Tariff Board?

(b) Is there any periodical examination of the conditions of these industries by the Tariff Board or any other agency?

(c) What is the machinery by which the obligations laid on these protected industries are enforced?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: For the sake of convenience, I am replying to all the parts of the question together. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Ministry of Commerce Resolutions No. 30-T(1)48, dated the 6th August 1948 and No. 30-T(1)49, dated the 26th February 1949, copies of which are placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix IX, annexure No. 10.)

In these Resolutions, the Indian Tariff Board has been authorised to maintain a continuous watch over the progress of protected industries by conducting enquiries as and when necessary and to advise Government regarding the necessity or otherwise of modifying the protection or assistance granted to an industry from time to time. The Board has also been authorised to keep a careful watch to ensure that conditions attached to the grant of protection were fully implemented and that the protected industries were being run efficiently. Protection is liable to be withdrawn in any case where it is found that obligations imposed on an industry have not been carried out.

OIL AND OIL SEEDS

*340. Shri O. V. Alagesan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the total quantity of oil seeds exported from India during the half year ended the 30th September, 1949 and its value?

(b) What is the total quantity of oil exported during the same period and what is its value?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The total quantity and value of oil seeds exported from India during the half year ending the 30th September 1949, are 31,257 tons and 4,89,03,000 rupees respectively.

(b) The total quantity and value of oil exported from India during the same period are 42,44,086 gallons and 3,55,00,000 rupees respectively.

SINDRI FERTILIZER FACTORY

***341. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether the Sindri factory of Ammonium Sulphate has begun production?

(b) If so, what is the daily output at present and if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Not yet.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to Starred Question No. 12 on the 28th November, 1949.

ABDUCTED WOMEN

***342. { Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:**

(a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India sent a list of forty thousand abducted women to Pakistan and have got back only 5,800 of them so far whereas India has already sent back 11,000 abducted women to Pakistan?

(b) What steps will the Government of India take now to get the rest of them back?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): (a) A list of about 33,000 abducted Hindu and Sikh women and children was originally sent to Pakistan but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate. The number of Hindu and Sikh abducted women and children, restored by Pakistan to India upto the 31st October, 1949 is 6,173 and that of Muslim abducted women and children restored by India to Pakistan during the same period is 12,185.

(b) Under the existing Inter-Dominion agreement, abducted persons are to be recovered by the authorities of the Dominion where such persons are found to be residing. The Government of Pakistan have assured the Government of India that they would do their very best to effect recoveries. Recoveries are being effected in Pakistan though the pace is slower than in India.

EVACUEE PROPERTIES

***343. { Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:**

Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the value of evacuee properties exchanged between India and Pakistan after the agreement allowing such exchange was entered into?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: So far only 28 properties have been exchanged. Their value is not known. This information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

DEVALUATION

***344. { Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:**

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state as to what has been the effect of devaluation on the trade and commerce with Pakistan so far?

(b) Has any jute been purchased from Pakistan, and if so, at what price?

(c) Have Government made any arrangement for the purchase of jute for our mills elsewhere and if so, what are those arrangements?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) As the Honourable Member may be already aware, trade and commercial transactions between India and Pakistan are virtually at a stand-still since devaluation.

(b) So far as Government are aware, no purchase of jute from Pakistan has been made since devaluation.

(c) No.

ABDUCTED WOMEN

***345. { Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:**

Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of abducted women recovered in Pakistan and restored to India during the period May—October, 1949;

(b) the number of Muslim abducted women recovered in India and restored to Pakistan during the same period; and

(c) the number of cases where Muslim abducted women recovered in India refused to go to Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): (a) The number of abducted women recovered in Pakistan and restored to India during the period May—October, 1949 is 398.

(b) The number of Muslim abducted women recovered in India and restored to Pakistan in the corresponding period is 1,740.

(c) In a comparatively very small number of cases, women recovered in India have expressed their unwillingness to go to their relatives in Pakistan, in the first instance. In every case, however, after arrangements were made for them to meet their relatives, they have gone to them and we have received no subsequent complaints from them.

SUPPLY OF COTTON

***346. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the gap created in the supply of cotton to Indian Textile Mills as a result of partition;

(b) the quantity and quality of cotton imported from each foreign country in the year 1948-49;

(c) whether there is any scheme to make up the gap; and

(d) the quantity and quality of textile and cotton exported out of India in the year 1948-49?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The Indian Textile Industry needs about 34 lakh bales of East Indian cotton, that is, cotton of varieties grown in India and Pakistan. The Indian cotton crop this year is estimated to be about 28 lakh bales, of which two lakh bales are short-staple cotton which the Indian Mills cannot utilise and which are normally exported. The gap between requirement and supply is, therefore, of the order of 8 lakh bales.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table. (See Appendix IX, annexure No. 11.)

(c) Yes, the Ministry of Agriculture have formulated plans to increase the production of cotton in India.

(d) Statements are placed on the Table. (See *Appendix IX, annexure No. 12.*)

CABLES FACTORY

***347. Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for establishing a cables factory is ready for execution;

(b) what the estimated cost of the factory is; and

(c) what would be its annual output?

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

(b) Rs. 100 lakhs.

(c) About Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 lakhs in terms of import value.

MANDI SALT MINES

***348. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of rock salt mined from the Mandi Salt Mines at Guma, Druman and other places in that area during the years 1947, 1948 and 1949 (up to date) respectively;

(b) the reasons why this deposit has not been worked on an extensive scale;

(c) when it is proposed to place this salt in adequate quantities in the market in order to eliminate imports from foreign countries; and

(d) whether pending the installation of a big salt refinery in Mandi district, Government propose to consider the advisability of setting up small scale refineries at Jogindernagar on the lines of the one previously installed in Mandi town?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) There are only three mines of rock salt worked in Mandi, viz., Guma, Drang and Maigal. The quantity of salt mined in each is given in a statement which is laid on the Table.

(b) Mainly on account of its impurity and uneconomic production.

(c) Development of these sources will be considered on the receipt of the report of the Geologists, who are now surveying to find out if there are any purer strata of rock salt associated with the impure mines, which could be worked profitably. The Salt Experts Committee also has made certain recommendations which are now under consideration.

(d) No.

STATEMENT

	1947. (in mds.)	1948. (in mds.)	1949 (up to November). (in mds.)
Guma.	30,743	26,094	19,407
Drang.	75,205	74,338	73,884
Maigal.	17,317	13,310	750*
TOTAL.	123,265	113,742	94,041

*The quarrying of salt from Maigal Salt quarry has been postponed temporarily.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES

***349. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) what is the distribution of the present refugee population, province and region-wise;

(b) how they have been rehabilitated in respect of housing and absorption in gainful occupations in each centre;

(c) what steps are being taken for the rehabilitation of those still without houses and/or gainful employment;

(d) how long it will take to rehabilitate the entire number according to approved plans province and region-wise; and

(e) whether Government propose to place a copy of the plans referred to in part (d) above on the Table of the House?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix IX, annexure No. 13.*)

(b) These statistics are given in two pamphlets issued by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, viz., *Rehabilitation Review* (May—August 1949) and the *Statistical Abstract* which brings the statistics up to date to the end of October 1949, copies of which have been supplied to all the Honourable Members.

Table 5 of the *Statistical Abstract* gives the requisite information province-wise.

(c) The *Rehabilitation Review* gives an account of various housing and other schemes under way to rehabilitate those still in need. Besides, a number of Training and Work Centres have been or are being set up in which displaced persons will be given short courses of training and thereafter engaged on remunerative productive work.

(d) The target is March 1952.

(e) The plans of the Ministry have already been published in the quarterly reviews, which are circulated to the Honourable Members from time to time. Now, in view of the financial stringency, a high powered committee has been appointed to consider afresh the plans of the Ministry.

JUTE MILLS

***350. Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the jute mills of West Bengal were closed on the plea of shortage of jute?

(b) If so, do Government propose to enquire into the matter?

(c) Have these jute mill owners got subsidies from the Government of India for running the mills?

(d) If so, what amount has been given to them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) No. The scheme of closure of the Jute Mills for a week during each month was introduced because stocks of raw jute with mills and trade were low. Another factor behind the decision was the necessity of bringing down the prices of raw jute to economic levels to meet the increasing consumer resistance to manufactured jute goods in overseas markets.

(b) No inquiry is necessary.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

JUTE (NEW SOURCES OF SUPPLY)

***351. Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the sources other than Pakistan which have been found out by Government for supply of jute to India after devaluation of the rupee;

(b) whether any jute mills in India have been affected for want of adequate supply and, if so, to what extent; and

(c) whether there has been any rise in the price of jute after devaluation, and if so, to what extent?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) None. India and Pakistan together virtually hold the monopoly of production and supply of jute. Every effort is being made to increase the output of jute in India so that we may become independent of Pakistan supplies. Steps are also being taken to increase the cultivation of mesta fibre which is used as a suitable substitute for jute.

(b) Since it is no longer possible to purchase Pakistan jute at economic prices, the production of jute goods will have to continue to be somewhat restricted as it had been for some time before devaluation also.

(c) So far as Indian jute is concerned, steps have been taken to prevent any rise in prices and these have been effective.

RESETTLEMENT OF MEOS

***352. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Meos (Muslims) who have been resettled in Gurgaon, Bharatpur and Alwar; and

(b) the amount that has been spent upon them so far?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) 85,266.

(b) A loan of Rs. 10 lakhs has been advanced to the Rajasthan Government for the resettlement of Meos. Besides, Rs. 1,60,000 have been placed at the disposal of East Punjab Government for the same purpose.

LAND ALLOTMENT TO REFUGEES

***353. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the land abandoned by Muslims in Bharatpur and Alwar has been allotted to Hindu and Sikh refugees; and

(b) if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Of the total area of 4,17,721 acres abandoned by Muslims 1,65,508 acres are required for restoration to those displaced Muslim owners who did not leave the Indian Dominion. Nearly 25,000 acres is in the possession of Hindu tenants of Muslims who have migrated to Pakistan. Out of the remaining area, 1,61,729 acres have already been allotted to displaced families and the balance is expected to be allotted to them by the Kharif 1950.

EVACUEE LAND IN BIKANER

***354. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any evacuee land in Bikaner State owing to migration of Muslims from that State; and

(b) if so, to whom it has been allotted?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes.

(b) Ordinarily all the evacuee land should have been allotted to displaced persons; but it was reported that some of the evacuee land had been allotted to non-refugees. An Officer has been deputed to make an enquiry. As soon as his report is available steps will be taken to allot the land to displaced persons.

SALE PROCEEDS OF DISPOSALS

***355. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a share of the sale-proceeds of articles for disposal is to be given to Pakistan by India and to India by Pakistan;

(b) what is the payment so far received from Pakistan as India's share and what is the amount paid by India to Pakistan; and

(c) whether Government are aware that with a view to paying the least possible amount, Pakistan is distributing many articles free to its own people?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) It was agreed at the Inter-Dominion Conference held in May 1948 at Karachi that from the total net sale proceeds of the surplus stores India will retain a sum equivalent to the amount paid by India to H.M.G. in respect of H.M.G. Surplus Stores. It was further agreed that until this amount was realised by India, Pakistan will pay currently the net realisations in Pakistan to India. The excess realised in both the Dominions over that limit will be shared in between India and Pakistan in the ratio of uncovered debt viz., 82½ per cent. and 17½ per cent.

(b) No payment has so far been received by Government of India from Pakistan on this account. This matter is, however, under correspondence with the Government of Pakistan. As the net sales realisations have not reached the sum of Rs. 37.7 crores paid to H.M.G. by India the question of India making any payment to Pakistan does not arise.

(c) Government have no official information on the subject.

ABDUCTED WOMEN (RECOVERY)

***356. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the answer to starred question No. 1101 asked on 16th March, 1949 and state:

(a) the number of abducted women recovered and returned by India and Pakistan since 1st February, 1949 upto date;

(b) whether there has been any Inter-Dominion agreement in respect of the recovery of abducted Kashmiri women, if so, what Agency or Agencies will be employed by each Government for their recovery; and

(c) the approximate number of abducted Kashmiri women and children, to be recovered from Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): (a) The number of abducted women and children recovered in India and restored to Pakistan from 1st February, 1949 to 31st October, 1949 is 2,268 as against 502 recovered from Pakistan and restored to India.

(b) We have entered into an agreement with Pakistan in October, 1949, on this subject. As in the case of recovery of non-Kashmiri abducted women and children, social workers and the police of the Dominion in which the abducted persons are found to be residing will actually effect recoveries. The recovered persons will be brought to Lahore and Amritsar Camps by the Pakistan and Indian authorities respectively, where their cases will be scrutinised with a view to their ultimate restoration.

(c) It is not possible to give any reliable estimate of the number of Kashmiri abducted women which are to be recovered from Pakistan.

SOUTH EAST ASIAN UNION

***357. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a U.P.A. report from Manila dated 31st October, 1949 and published in the *Hindustan Times* of 1st November, 1949 quoting General Romulo, President of the U.N. General Assembly, to the effect that "India has indicated her willingness to attend a preliminary conference of the proposed S.E. Asian Union";

(b) if so, whether India's attitude in the matter is as reported; and

(c) if not, what India's attitude towards the proposed S.E. Asian Union is?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) to (c). Government have seen the report referred to. They are not aware of any conference for a proposed South East Asian Union, nor do they consider the formation of any such union feasible in present circumstances.

An informal approach was made to Government about a conference being held in continuation of the Conference on Indonesia held in New Delhi in January last to discuss matters of common interest. Nothing further has happened in regard to it.

IRON AND STEEL

***358. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total quantity and value of iron and steel (i) produced in India and (ii) imported from abroad, along with the quantity imported from each country and the value thereof during the year 1948-49 and in 1949-50 upto the end of October, 1949?

(b) What is the average quantity of iron and steel required for normal use in India per year?

(c) Have the Government of India prepared any plan for making India self-sufficient in steel and iron? If so, by which year and in what manner?

(d) What is the number of factories and workshops producing finished iron and steel in various parts of the country, and what is the total investment in such factories and workshops, and the annual output of each of these factories and workshops?

(e) Are these workshops and factories privately owned or State-owned?

(f) If private, have the Government of India any control over the working of such factories? If so, to what extent and in what manner is the control exercised?

(g) Have Government in view the establishing of new factories, workshops etc., for the production of finished iron and steel in India?

(h) If so, at which places and what is the estimated investment on such factories and workshops?

(i) Will they be privately owned, State-owned or Quasi-Government, and if private owned in what manner do Government propose to subject them to Government control?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) (i) About 854 thousand tons of the value of Rs. 32 crores in 1948 and 911 thousand tons of the value of Rs. 37 crores in 1949.

(ii) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix IX, annexure No. 14.*)

(b) About 2½ million tons.

(c) Yes, Sir; Government have completed their investigation for two steel plants with an annual production capacity of 500,000 tons each with facilities for doubling this capacity. Assistance is also being given to the existing producers to increase their production capacity. If progress is achieved according to plan, India may become self-sufficient in steel in about 10 years' time.

(d) There are 86 steel producing factories in India. A statement showing the annual output of each of the important producers is laid on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix IX, annexure No. 15.*)

Government have no information about the total investment in these factories.

(e) They are privately owned.

(f) Under the Iron and Steel (Control of Production and Distribution) Order, 1941, and the Iron and Steel (Scrap Control) Order, 1943, Government have powers to direct what categories of steel shall be produced, how the products shall be distributed and at what prices.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) It has been decided that one plant should be located in the Central Provinces and the other in Orissa. The value of investment on the two plants is estimated to be about Rs. 180 crores, including township.

(i) The whole matter is under consideration specially in relation to the available financial resources.

SHOW ROOMS ABROAD

***359. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are organising any show rooms for display of cottage industries and other local products in foreign markets; if so, in which countries; and

(b) the amount of expenditure that has so far been incurred or is intended to be incurred in connection with the organisation of such show rooms and to what extent such advertisements have resulted in stimulating exports to foreign countries of indigenous and cottage industries products?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes. It has been decided to establish a show room in New York which will start functioning by the middle of December, 1949. It was also originally intended to have two more show rooms—in Paris and in Rio de Janeiro. In view of the

need for economy, however, the establishment of show rooms in Paris and Rio de Janeiro has been postponed for the present.

Special arrangements are also being made for display of Refugee handicrafts in the following 18 offices of Indian Embassies/Legations/Trade Commissions, viz., (1) London, (2) Paris, (3) Brussels, (4) Rome, (5) Stockholm, (6) Hamburg, (7) Berlin, (8) Prague, (9) Berne, (10) Lisbon, (11) Toronto, (12) New York, (13) San Francisco, (14) Rio de Janeiro, (15) Buenos Aires, (16) Manila, (17) Tokyo and (18) Sydney.

It has also been decided as an experiment to organise two nucleus show rooms, one at San Francisco and the other at Stockholm by persuading interested manufacturers to send samples at their own cost for display in these places.

(b) A sum of about Rs. 21,500 has already been incurred in connection with the show room in New York. An expenditure of about Rs. 10,000 has also been incurred for the display of Refugee handicrafts in the 18 offices mentioned above.

As no show room has actually started functioning so far, it is not possible to assess the results at this stage.

EXPORTS

*360. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of exports from India to foreign countries during 1948-49; (b) the main commodities and articles together with the value thereof exported from India in 1948-49; and

(c) how far the Government of India accepted the recommendations of the Export Promotion Committee, and in what manner they have been implemented?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is placed on the table of the House. (See Appendix IX, Annexure No. 16.)

(c) A copy of the Government of India, Ministry of Commerce Resolution No. 64-CW(84)/49, dated the 8th November 1949 on the recommendations of the Committee is placed on the Table of the House. (Placed in the Library. See No. P-37/49.) It will be seen therefrom that Government have already taken steps to implement that recommendations of the Committee.

PAKISTAN'S BOYCOTT OF INDIAN CLOTH

*361. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wholesale cloth merchants of Karachi in Pakistan have been organising an Indian cloth and yarn boycott movement in Pakistan;

(b) how this campaign for boycott of Indian yarn and cloth has affected the trade of India with Pakistan; and

(c) whether the Government of India have lodged any protest in this connection with the Government of Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Certain interests in Karachi had organised such a movement in August, 1949. It is understood that this movement did not get the support of the important sections of trade in East and West Pakistan.

(b) It is not possible to say the exact effect of this campaign, particularly as since devaluation of the rupee, trade between the two Dominions is at stand-still.

(c) The matter was taken up with the Pakistan Government and we were assured that the Government of Pakistan intended to fulfil the Trade Agreement in letter and in spirit.

EXPORT OF FISH TO BURMA

*362. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that prawn exporters to Burma find it very difficult to get export licences; and

(b) whether Government propose to take necessary steps to secure licences to such exporters?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Export of prawn outside India is freely allowed to all permissible destinations including Burma.

(b) Does not arise.

MONAZITE FACTORY

*363. { **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:**
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

(a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state when it is expected to start a monazite factory in India?

(b) What is the total sum invested in the Central Glass and Ceramic Institute at Jadavpur (Calcutta)? Has the Institute started investigation work?

(c) Have the necessary plants for the Institute been received and duly installed there?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Monazite Factory is expected to start work within the next six months or so.

(b) The total sum sanctioned for the buildings and equipment of this Institute is Rs. 24,05,000. Research work in the technological block has already started.

(c) A large portion of the scientific equipment and apparatus required has been purchased and some of it has been installed. The building will be completely ready by April, 1950.

CONFERENCE ON EVACUEE PROPERTY

*364. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government called a conference of the representatives of the displaced persons in July 1949, to consider matters relating to evacuee property?

(b) Were certain committees formed by Government as a result of this conference?

(c) What was the number and names of these committees?

(d) How many of these committees still exist?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The following four committees were formed: (i) A liaison committee to keep in close touch with the Ministry of Rehabilitation, (ii) A committee to examine what changes should be made in the Evacuee Property Law, (iii) A committee to consider certain economic questions like exchange control, income-tax, etc., and (iv) A committee for suggesting machinery for the verification and valuation of evacuee property left behind in Pakistan and valuation of the evacuee property taken over in India.

(d) The last three Committees have completed their work. Four members of the Liaison Committee have resigned.

DISPLACED PERSONS AT BADARPUR

***365. Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of displaced persons residing at Badarpur with the names of the various places there where they live and the conditions in which they live;

(b) whether Government are aware that some 200 families living at Badarpur are half-fed and some 46 families are practically starving;

(c) the number suffering from various diseases and those particularly suffering from malnutrition;

(d) the arrangements made for providing medical relief to displaced persons at Badarpur; and

(e) the steps which Government have so far taken to give relief to the displaced persons?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

DISPLACED PERSONS REGISTERED AT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

***366. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of displaced persons registered for employment at different Employment Exchanges in India since the partition;

(b) the total number of displaced persons provided with employment through the said agencies;

(c) the total number of displaced persons registered with the Special Employment Bureau for highly qualified displaced persons since the partition; and

(d) the total number of highly qualified displaced persons provided with employment through the said bureau?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Since partition upto the end of October, 1949, 4,82,015 displaced persons registered at different Employment Exchanges in India for employment assistance.

(b) During the same period 1,21,318 displaced persons are known to have been placed in employment through the Employment Exchanges.

(c) By the end of October 1949, 3,409 highly qualified displaced persons had registered with the Special Employment Bureau.

(d) By the end of October 1949, 1,058 highly qualified displaced persons are known to have been provided with employment through the Special Employment Bureau.

The figures in (a) and (b) do not include the figures of (c) and (d).

HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

***367. Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties of handloom weavers caused by the accumulation of unsold handloom cloth all over the country excluding the large stocks of Lungi cloth;

(b) whether Government are aware that it is due to competition from mills; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to implement the recommendations of the Fact Finding Committee and also the All India Handloom Board that certain weaves of cloth of lower counts would be reserved for handloom industry and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) There is a large accumulation of stocks in many areas.

(b) Mills and the handloom industry have always competed against each other. That cannot be the only reason for the present accumulation of handloom products.

(c) The recommendations are under the consideration of Government, and I hope, a decision will be taken soon.

PURCHASE OF HANDLOOM GOODS

***368. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to purchase handloom goods to the value of a crore of rupees;

(b) whether Government have received representations to the effect that in Travancore about a crore and a half rupees worth of handloom goods are in stock and that the Government may be pleased to make a part of their purchase from this excess stock; and

(c) if so, whether Government intend to make any purchase from the State of Travancore-Cochin?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The Government have decided to purchase handloom products at least up to one-third of their own requirements provided that the handloom industry is able to supply fabrics of the requisite quality. If purchase of one-third of the Government of India's requirements materialises, the value will be roughly of the order of Rupees one crore.

(b) I have heard that there are large stocks in the Travancore-Cochin Union, as in other important centres of the handloom industry.

(c) Yes, provided that goods of the required quality can be supplied from Travancore-Cochin. I have asked the Cotton Textiles Purchase Officer to visit Travancore-Cochin and other important centres of the industry in the course of next fortnight or so.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Wednesday, 7th December, 1949

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

LOCAL ADVISERS FOR INDIAN STUDENTS IN U.K. AND U. S. A.

*369. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government have appointed local advisers for Indian students in the U.K. and U.S.A.?

(b) If so, what will be their functions?

(c) What are the names of these advisers?

(d) What will be the expenditure involved in these appointments?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) گورنمنٹ نے یو - کے - اور یو - ایس - اے - میں کوئی خاص اڈوائزر ہندوستانی و دیارتھیوں کیلئے نہیں رکھا ہے - ہاں - ایجوکیشنل اور کلچرل کاموں کیلئے ایجوکیشنل افسر رکھے ہیں -
(b) to (d) . یہ سوال پیدا نہیں ہوتے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Government has not appointed any advisers for Indian students in the U. K. and U. S. A. Government has appointed Educational Officers in both countries for educational and cultural work.

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

شری آر - کے - سدھوا : کیا میں جان سکتا ہوں کہ یہ جو کلچرل کام کیلئے رکھے گئے ہیں ان کا کام کیا ہے ؟

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what are the functions of those who have been engaged for cultural work?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : مختلف ایجوکیشنل کام ہوتے ہیں - ہمیں معلوم کرنا ہوتا ہے کہ کن پرہنوردستہوں میں جگہ مل سکتی ہے کن میں نہیں مل سکتی - اسی طرح کے دوسرے تعلیمی اور کلچرل کام -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: There are educational works of various nature. We have to find out in which of the Universities seats can be available and in which not. And so are other cultural and educational works.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: May I know whether it is the duty of these advisers to find out the dollar requirements of the students?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: یہ انکی خاص ذیوتی نہیں ہے لیکن اسٹوڈنٹس کی جیسی کچھ ضرورتیں ہوتی ہیں، اور انکی نوٹس میں لائی جاتی ہیں، انکا وہ ضرور خیال رکھتے ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This is not the special duty assigned to them. But the requirements of the students, of whatever nature, if brought to their notice, are surely looked after.

شری دیس بندھو گپتا: کیا یہ کبھی طلباء سے ملتے ہیں؟

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Do they ever come into contact with the students?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: جب کبھی ضرورت ہوتی ہے ملتے ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Whenever necessity arises, they do meet them.

شری آر - کے سدھوا: کیا یہ ہول ٹائم افسر ہیں؟

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Are they whole-time officers?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: ہاں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes, Sir.

شری دیس بندھو گپتا: کیا ان میں کوئی صاحب ایسے ہیں جو یو۔ ایس۔ اے کی کسی یونیورسٹی میں پڑھ رہے ہوں یا وہاں کے حالات سے واقف ہوں یا وہاں کا کوئی تجربہ رکھتے ہوں؟

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is there any officer amongst them who received his education in any of the Universities in the U. S. A. and is conversant with the conditions prevailing there or possesses experience in the affairs of that country?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: گورنمنٹ نے ان کے لئے یہ کوالیفیکیشن ضروری نہیں سمجھا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government have not considered it necessary to prescribe this qualification for them.

سردار بھوپندر سنگھ مان: جو یہ رکھ گئے ہیں ان پر کیا اخراجات ہیں؟

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: What is the expenditure involved on the employment of these officers?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: یہ میں ابھی نہیں بتا سکتا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot give this information at the moment.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO HOUSING SOCIETIES

*370. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any land has been allotted to any Housing Society in Delhi since 1st January, 1949?

(b) Has any other society applied for allotment of land and if so, with what result?

(c) Is it a fact that Nav-Bharat Co-operative Housing Society has sent a number of reminders to the Ministry of Health to expedite this question and if so, with what result?

(d) What is the reason for this delay?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) 'No.

(b) to (d). A number of Co-operative Housing Societies including the Nav-Bharat Co-operative Housing Society applied for allotment of land and some of them have sent in reminders also. The whole question of allotment of land to co-operative societies in Delhi at concessional rates has been examined but it is found that it is not practicable to allot land within the urban area at concessional rates beyond what has been made available for allotment to displaced persons.

I may also say that I have since spoken to Mr. Sidhva, and further avenues are being explored in regard to the allotment of lands for this Society or for other co-operative societies outside urban areas.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether the land that is being procured for housing purposes is being acquired from agriculturists or is it land not used for agricultural purposes?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I think it applies to both.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I ask whether it is a fact that about 10 000 acres of land have been notified by the Delhi Improvement Trust for various Town Expansion schemes in the suburbs of Delhi and that all these lands have remained undeveloped during the last ten years: neither the Trust developed the land, nor were Housing Companies or private individuals allowed to develop them? What do Government propose to do in the matter?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: As far as the land which belongs to the Improvement Trust is concerned about 2,000 acres have been allotted for housing for displaced persons. That is really 80 per cent. of the land that belongs to the Improvement Trust. Out of the remaining 20 per cent., 15 per cent. has been occupied in an unauthorised way again by displaced persons. There is thus very little land today left to the Improvement Trust.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I ask whether, in the case of the agriculturists who are being dispossessed of their land, any alternative arrangement is made for them?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I believe alternative arrangement is always sought to be made for them.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is it a fact that some of these plots are being allotted to higher bidders most of whom are capitalists from Delhi, in preference to displaced middlemen?

Mr. Speaker: I think these questions were dealt with in the last session, if I remember rightly.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether during the last one year the Delhi Improvement Trust has prepared any development scheme?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: If the Honourable Member wants to have that information I will have detailed information provided to him.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know what are the alternative arrangements referred to by the Honourable Minister?

Mr. Speaker: To give lands to those agriculturists whose lands are acquired.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: If it is at all possible alternative land is given to them wherever feasible.

NEW DESIGNS FOR CURRENCY NOTES

***371. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the designs for new currency notes have been finalised?

(b) If so, what are those designs and when are the new notes likely to come into circulation?

(c) What is the cause for the delay in introducing the new currency notes?

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

(b) The main feature of the new designs is the replacement of the King's Portrait by the Capital of the Asoka Pillar. The new notes are likely to be put into circulation with effect from the 26th January, 1950.

(c) It has not been possible to put the new notes into circulation earlier for the following reasons: (i) The watermark had to be changed and paper with the new watermark had to be obtained from the United Kingdom, (ii) the new designs had to be prepared and approved, and (iii) the large stock of printed notes and of paper of the existing watermark had to be used up before the new design notes could be printed.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I could not follow the answer to the question when the new notes are likely to be put into circulation.

Mr. Speaker: 26th January, 1950.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I take it that new design coins also will be put into circulation on 26th January, 1950?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are also under preparation.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it contemplated to print over the old notes something to indicate that there has been a change in the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I do not quite know what the Honourable Member is driving at. The main change is the replacement of the King's effigy by the Asoka Pillar. There are various other changes which are more or less in regard to artistry of the thing. I have no doubt that if the Honourable Member will see them it will delight his heart.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know the possible date when the new rupee coins will be introduced?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot give the information straight-away.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether the Government contemplate withdrawing the notes already in circulation after the introduction of the new notes?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether a sample of the new design will be laid on the Table?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

EXPENDITURE OVER AND ABOVE THE BUDGET GRANT

***372. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large amounts over and above the budget grant have been spent by various Ministries during the last year and this year;

(b) if so, under whose and what authority these payments were made before the supplementary grants were passed by the Assembly; and

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Last year expenditure was incurred by a number of Ministries in excess of the sums provided in the budget but this was regularised by obtaining the necessary supplementary grants from the Assembly before the close of the year. In the current year no Ministry has upto now exceeded the grant placed at its disposal.

(b) In each case sanction to incur expenditure in excess of the budget provision was given by the Finance Ministry after satisfying itself that the expenditure was both unavoidable and justified. This is not inconsistent with the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, which only requires that all excesses over budget grants should be covered by supplementary grants before the end of the financial year.

(c) Instructions have recently been issued to all Ministries that no expenditure which has not been provided in the budget should be incurred without the prior approval of the Standing Finance Committee and in anticipation of the voting of funds by the Legislature except in very urgent cases.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India Act says that the amount spent over and above the budget sanction can be used before the supplementary grant is passed by the Legislature? If so, may I know under what provisions of the Act Ministries can spend money without the previous sanction of the Legislature?

Mr. Speaker: This is a question with reference to the Act.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether there is any provision to that effect?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member can himself look into the provisions. This is not a matter which is within the special cognisance of the Minister only.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know if, along with the approval of the Standing Finance Committee, the consent or approval of the Standing Committee of the Ministry concerned would also be required?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as I am concerned, the Standing Finance Committee which advises me on questions of expenditure is duly consulted.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I wanted to know whether it is within the power of any Ministry to spend money without the sanction of the House before a supplementary grant is passed.

Mr. Speaker: In the form in which the Member puts the question, it becomes a matter of opinion a matter of interpretation. He can ask if such sanction is taken as a matter of fact or not.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know from whom the sanction is taken before the money is spent?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Before the money is spent, in the first instance the sanction of the Finance Ministry has got to be obtained. At present the practice is that—it is only a matter of pure convention—before any expenditure is incurred even after sanction by the Finance Ministry, the matter has got to be placed before the Standing Finance Committee and excepting in very urgent cases it must also be placed before the Legislature in the form of a supplementary grant. If I may say so, there is no constitutional provision which requires the Ministry not to incur expenditure unless the previous sanction of the Legislature is obtained. All that is necessary is that a supplementary grant be obtained before the close of the financial year.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is the Auditor General's sanction necessary?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

*373. [WITHDRAWN].

RETIREMENT OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

*374. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a memorandum has been issued to all Ministries of the Government of India in connection with retirement of Ministerial Government servants at the age of 55?

(c) How many are still in service who have attained the age of 55 and also the age of 60?

(e) What are the reasons for not retiring these incumbents permanently?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to Starred Question No. 930 on the 7th March 1949, and to the Ministry of Home Affairs Office Memorandum No. 26/6/48-Ests., dated 9th December, 1948 referred to therein.

(b) and (c). Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to those who under the rules can ordinarily serve upto the age of 60 and are retained in employment after that age. I have information relating to offices situated in Delhi and New Delhi only. Only ten such persons are in service, having been re-employed on account of their specialised experience. The term of re-employment of five of them is due to expire this month. The cases of others are being reviewed.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the terms of those persons due to expire next month will be continued or terminated? Will they be extended?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No.

Mr. Frank Anthony: What is the reason for the rejection by the Government of the Central Pay Commission's recommendation that the age of superannuation of Government servants should be fixed at 58?

Mr. Speaker: I think the Government did not accept the recommendation of the Central Pay Commission in this regard.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It will be very unfair to the younger people.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The recommendation of the Pay Commission is to the effect that their service may be extended up to 60! The Government did not consider that this recommendation would be in the interests of the efficiency of the service.

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN ANDAMANS

*375. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether there is any Labour Officer in the Andaman Islands?

(b) What are the numbers of (i) temporary and (ii) permanent labourers in the islands?

(c) What are their respective salaries under the Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) There is at present no officer employed exclusively on the duty of looking after labourers in the Andamans. Each Department of the Andamans Administration looks after the welfare of the labourers working under it under the general supervision of the Chief Commissioner.

(b) (i) 1141, (ii) 3037.

(c) The standard rate in the case of both temporary and permanent labourers is Rs. 17 per mensem with usual dearness allowance of Rs. 35 per mensem.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether foodstuffs are made available to these labourers at control rates?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am not able to answer this question now. I want notice.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Have these labourers come from the mainland of India or whether they were born in those islands?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Both.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: They could be born either here in India or there. They cannot be born in both places.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: What are the different projects on which this labour, temporary as well as permanent, is working?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are no projects at present.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: I wanted to know the nature of this labour, whether it is agricultural, commercial or industrial.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no industry or commerce there. The labour is mostly building, forest and plantation labour.

BRITISH OFFICIALS

*376. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of British Officials in the Indian forces, Land, Navy and the Air?

(b) How many of them are technicians?

(c) How many of them are on teaching staff?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (c). The total number of British officers employed in the three Services is 277. Of this number, about 75 per cent. are employed in technical and teaching appointments. In addition, about a hundred British civilian officers are also similarly employed.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether these officers are serving with the Indian Army in their individual capacity or they have been lent from the British Army by the British Government?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The question of my Honourable friend is not clear. Of the officers whose services have been made available to us, some on contract, some belong to the Indian Army and some belong to the British Army. I do not know what his purpose is but all of them are under an agreement with the Defence Ministry.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the continuance of these officers in the Indian Army depends upon the agreement or upon the sweet will of the British Government?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It depends on the terms of the agreement and the extension of the terms of the agreement is up to us, whether an officer is required for one year, two years, five years or more.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know in what other capacity these British Officers are serving apart from technicians and teachers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: These 277 officers who are employed in the armed forces are serving as technicians and in training institutions. There is no other service in which these officers are employed.

Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung: May I know if there are any Americans?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Are not Indian officers available to replace them?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Indian officers with requisite experience were not available and that is why we had to employ some and we had to keep some in order to keep up the efficiency of the armed forces.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Are there any non-British officers employed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not say off-hand but most probably not. If however my Honourable friend wants to know I can get him the information.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether these officers are paid salaries according to the rates in the Indian army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: According to the contract rates agreed to.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is any attempt being made to replace them by Indians?

Mr. Speaker: The answer is obvious.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have these officers been taken by our choice or have they been forced on us?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Are there any foreign officers in the regular fighting forces?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There may be a few but our endeavour has been not to keep any such officers in the fighting forces.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What steps, if any, are Government taking to train and equip Indian officers to fill up these jobs and how soon do they propose to train such persons?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Every possible effort is being made for training officers.

WARDHA SCHEME

***377. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government have taken into consideration the 'Wardha Scheme of Education' of Mahatma Gandhi?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken by Government in this connection?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) and (b) آنریبل ممبر کو سوال نمبر ۳۷۷ اور نمبر ۸۹ کی طرف دھیان دلایا جاتا ہے جو ۱۷ فروری سنہ ۱۹۴۹ء کو شری کیشو دلو نے اور ۳ مارچ کو شری بسنت کمار داس نے کیا تھا - جو جواب ان کا دیا گیا تھا وہ یہ ہے کہ واردہ اسکیم کا مین (main) پرنسپل یہ تھا کہ پڑھائی اس طرح کی ہونی چاہیئے کہ بچے کام کچ کرتے ہوئے تعلیم پائیں - اس اسکیم کو گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے مان لیا ہے - بیسک ایجوکیشن کا سسٹم اسی پرنسپل کو دھیان میں رکھ کر بنایا گیا ہے سینٹرل ایڈوائیزی بورڈ آف ایجوکیشن نے جس سسٹم کی سفارش کی ہے اور سینٹرل اور پراونشل گورنمنٹیں جس سسٹم کو کام میں لا رہی ہیں وہ یہی سسٹم ہے - ہاں ایک بات مین (main) واردہ اسکیم کے ساتھ گورنمنٹ کی اسکیم پوری طرح نہیں مل سکی - واردہ اسکیم چاہتی ہے کہ پڑھائی پورا خرچہ بچوں کی بنائی ہوئی چیزوں سے نکالا جائے - مگر ابھی تک جو تجربہ ہوا ہے اس سے یہ بات پوری ہوتی دکھائی نہیں دیتی - تمام پرائنٹوں کی گورنمنٹیں بیسک ایجوکیشن اسکیم چلا رہی ہیں - انہوں نے اپنے قبولیت پلان میں یہ اسکیم بھی رکھی ہے - سینٹرل گورنمنٹ جو انہیں بلاک گرانٹ دے رہی ہے اس کا ایک بتوار اس کام پر بھی لکایا جاتا ہے -

سینٹرل گورنمنٹ ایسا لٹریچر بھی تیار کر رہی ہے جو ان اسکولوں کے ٹیچروں اور بچوں کے کام میں لایا جائے گا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the replies already given to the starred question No. 454 by Shri V. C. Kesava Rao on 17th February, 1949 and to starred question No. 829 by Shri Basanta Kumar Das on 3rd March, 1949.

The following is the gist of the replies given before. The main principle of the Wardha System of Education of Mahatma Gandhi, which is 'learn-

ing through activity' has been accepted by the Government of India. The Basic System of Education recommended by the Central Advisory Board of Education and generally accepted by the Central and Provincial Governments mainly conforms to the Wardha System of Education, the chief point of difference being that it has not yet been found possible to achieve complete economic self-sufficiency as advocated by the Wardha Scheme.

All the Provinces have implemented the scheme of Basic Education and have included it in their development plans for which they receive some block grants from the Centre.

The Centre is also taking steps for the production of literature for Basic School children and teachers.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What financial help are the Central Government giving to the provinces in which basic education has been introduced?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں نے ابھی کہا ہے کہ سنٹرل گورنمنٹ سے جو بلاک گرانٹ دی جاتی ہے وہ اس کام پر بھی خرچ کی جاتی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I have just stated that the block grant which is given by the Central Government is also utilized for this purpose.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What arrangements have been made for training teachers to impart this basic education in the provinces?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : مختلف پرائنٹوں میں ٹریننگ اسکول کھولے گئے ہیں اور کوشش کی جا رہی ہے کہ ان کی تعداد بڑھائی جائے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Training Schools have been opened in different Provinces and effort is being made to increase the number thereof.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What is the number of students in the schools?

Mr. Speaker: It is more or less a provincial subject.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is the scheme adopted by the Government of India, the Sargent Scheme or the Wardha Scheme?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اب جو اسکیم چلائی جا رہی

سارجنٹ اسکیم نہیں کہا جا سکتا۔ واردہ اسکیم کا میں پرنسپل اس میں شامل ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The scheme which is now in force cannot be exactly described as the Sargent Scheme. This embodies the main principle of the Wardha Scheme.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: What is the total number of schools based on the scheme which are directly working under this Government and what is the total amount of expenditure on these?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ تو میں ابھی نہیں بتا سکتا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot give this information at the moment.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether any Central Institute for the training of teachers has been opened by the Central Government?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ہاں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes, Sir.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: Where is it situated?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : دہلی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: In Delhi.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Is it the intention of the Government to replace the present system of education by the Wardha System of education and if so, in how many years?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ پوری کوشش کر رہی ہے۔ لیکن ابھی یہ کہنا مشکل ہے کہ کتنی مدت میں یہ کام پورا ہو سکیگا اس لئے کہ فائنڈیشنل دقتوں کی وجہ سے بہت سے راستے بند ہو چکے ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government are doing their best. But it is difficult to say at present how long it will take to complete this task because due to financial stringency so many avenues have been closed.

श्री एच० वी० कामत: दिल्ली प्राविंस में इस स्कीम के अनुसार कितनी शालाओं में बुनियादी तालीम दी जा रही है।

Shr. H. V. Kamath: What is the number of schools in Delhi Province in which basic education is being imparted in conformity with this scheme?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں یہ تعداد ابھی نہیں بتا سکتا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot give this number at the moment.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE HOMES

*378. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state how many Maternity and Child Welfare Homes are there in the centrally administered areas?

(b) How many are managed by Government?

(c) How many are under private management?

(d) How many receive aid from Government?

(e) What is the amount spent by the Government of India for this purpose during the year 1948-49?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House (See Appendix X, annexure No. 1.).

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Do Provinces and States receive any subsidy for maternity and child welfare?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: They run their own health schemes out of the block grant given to them by the Central Government.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Do the Central Government directly help any maternity and child welfare institutions in the provinces and states?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The provinces are autonomous as far as health is concerned.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: In the centrally administered areas are there any maternity and child welfare homes situated in the rural areas?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would have to have notice of that question.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: How many of these centres are going to be affected by the economy cuts of the Government?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: None of the existing centres are going to be affected but of course all schemes of future expansion will naturally be affected.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Has any maternity and child welfare centre been opened in any village in the centrally administered area?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the fact that the population of Delhi has almost doubled, do Government contemplate to open more centres?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already expanded facilities for maternity and child welfare in the Irwin Hospital, the Safdarjung Hospital and also in some municipal hospitals.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is that sufficient?

BUDGET DEFICIT

***379. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of a deficit of Rs. 45 crores in the budget of the current year is correct;

(b) if so, the causes of this deficit and to what extent it has been due to market disparities in the estimates and the actuals of the budget; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to meet the deficit and which of the new undertakings or grants for extension have been suspended?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member should await my Budget speech.

(c) Government have decided to enforce a reduction of five per cent. in the establishment expenditure and ten per cent. in Travelling Allowances and Contingencies in the proportionate grant for the rest of the year and a reduction of 20 per cent. of the budget grant in the provision for development expenditure. It is not possible to give details of all undertakings and grants affected by these general orders.

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

INCOME-TAX

***380. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring the integrated Indian States at par with the rest of India so far as the levy of income-tax is concerned;

(b) the time by which the integrated States will come in line with the rest of India in respect of income-tax; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to achieve this end as soon as possible?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Indian Income-tax Act and other laws relating to Taxation on Income have already been applied to the integrated States.

(b) The income arising in the State up to the date of merger, i.e., the 1st August 1949, will be assessed at the rates in force in the state immediately before the date of merger and the income arising thereafter will be assessed at the Indian rates.

(c) Does not arise.

EXAMINER OF CAPITAL ISSUES

***381. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the office of the Examiner of Capital Issues is being abolished; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to safeguard money being used for production of comparatively unessential goods?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

GANDHI MURDER TRIAL

***382. Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred on the Gandhi Murder trial?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The total expenditure incurred so far in respect of the Mahatma Gandhi Murder Case amounts to Rs. 9,64,338/3/-.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How much of the amount goes to lawyers?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Rs. 3,86,213 to the principal lawyer who was in charge of the case, viz., the Advocate General of Bombay, Rs. 1,26,343/12/- to Mr. N. K. Pettigara who was assisting the principal lawyer. To Mr. J. C. Shah, another advocate from Bombay who was assisting, Rs. 1,03,283. That is all for the lawyers.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: How much of this will return to the Government in the shape of income-tax?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That question will probably be answered by the Honourable Finance Minister.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What are the other heads under which expenditure has been incurred in this behalf and the amount under each?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Contingent charges Rs. 21,308, lodging and board Rs. 22,017, payment of establishment Rs. 25,057, Police (Sardar Kartar Singh) Rs. 10,800, Mr. Jwala Prasad Rs. 38,604, pay of Special

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

Judge Rs. 26,437, additions and alterations for the building in the Red Fort Rs. 41, 800 and Police Rs. 1,52,290.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether besides this any consultation fees were paid to any lawyers?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, there are no separate charges of that nature. This includes the whole thing.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: The Honourable the Home Minister said that the principal lawyer got over Rs. 3 lakhs and odd. May I know what is the basis of the remuneration—is it on daily basis?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The usual basis for lawyers of standing.

RASHTRIYA SWAYAM SEWAK SANGH

†*383. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any undertaking was given by the R.S.S. Chief to the Government that the organisation will eschew its violent policy;

(b) whether any correspondence has passed between the Sangh and the Government on the subject; and

(c) whether the Sangh has agreed to stop giving military training to its members?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the Press Communique dated the 12th July, 1949 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) There is no question of the Sangh agreeing to stop giving military training; no such training can be given by any non-official organisation except with the permission of the Government.

HYDERABAD ADMINISTRATION

†*384. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether the Government have reached any decisions regarding the future of Hyderabad administration?

(b) Is there any possibility of a responsible ministry functioning in Hyderabad in the near future?

(c) Has the Communist violence been brought under control in Hyderabad?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). As the Honourable Member is aware, we have replaced the Military Governor by a senior Civilian officer. This officer and the present Members of the Hyderabad Government will function as a Council of Ministers. The elections to the Constituent Assembly of the State are likely to be held by March 1950 and it is not possible to say anything about any further change until after the election when the matter will be reviewed.

(c) As a result of the firm and determined handling of the situation by the Administration, the trouble has been localised and on the whole is well under control.

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

PRIVILEGE TICKET ORDER

†*385. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state why the Privilege Ticket Order was withdrawn by Government?

(b) What is the amount of economy estimated by this withdrawal?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) As a temporary economy measure, necessitated by the present acute financial stringency.

(b) The concession has been in operation only for a year and it cannot be estimated on one year's expenditure alone, how much Government has saved on this account.

ECONOMY COMMITTEE

*386. **Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state what posts, if any, have been retrenched in different Ministries following the recommendations of the Economy Committee?

(b) In what other respects have their recommendations been given effect to?

(c) What will be the estimated annual savings from the implementation of their recommendations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) to (c). Detailed consideration of the recommendations of the Economy Committee by the Standing Committees of the Legislature attached to various Ministries and by the Standing Finance Committee revealed that there would be inordinate delay in giving effect to them. Meanwhile as the financial position deteriorated, it was found that in order to effect greater economies expeditiously it would be better to impose lump sum cuts on the budget provision of each Ministry. Accordingly each Ministry was asked to cut its expenditure on travelling allowance and contingencies by ten per cent. on pay and allowances by five per cent. and its capital expenditure by 20 per cent. The estimated saving on account of these cuts is about Rs. 40 crores in the year 1949-50.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: When will the Report of the Economy Committee be made available to the Members of the House?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will see to it that it is done as early as possible.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: May I know which of the Departments accepted the recommendations of the Economy Committee *in toto* and which of them rejected the recommendations *in toto*?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The proposals of the Economy Committee in regard to all the Ministries were under discussion concurrently by the Standing Finance Committee and then the Committee felt—and I plead guilty—that better progress would be made by adopting a somewhat different procedure.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is contemplated to reduce the size of the Cabinet also as a measure of economy?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am afraid that question should be addressed to the Honourable the Prime Minister.

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

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: May I know what was the cut recommended by the Economy Committee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It was a variety of proposals that were contained in the recommendations of the Economy Committee. As far as I can recollect, the total saving in the first year would be somewhere of the order of Rs. 5½ crores.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Can the Honourable Minister inform the House as to the total amount of cut taken by the Defence Ministry?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, Sir.

EARNINGS IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE

***337. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the ways and means by which the total earnings both on Government and private account in foreign exchange, particularly dollar are ascertained?

(b) Have Government come across any instance where Indian exporters have not given correct account of their earnings in foreign exchange, particularly dollar, or where Indian importers have misused the quota of foreign exchange made available to them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The total earnings of foreign exchange both on Government and on private account are ascertained by means of statistical returns which are furnished periodically to the Reserve Bank of India by the banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange.

(b) Yes; cases of this kind have come to Government's notice and action is being taken against the offenders under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1947 (VII of 1947).

REDUCTION IN PRICES

***338. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the steps, if any, taken to reduce the price of essential commodities in pursuance of the eight-point programme laid down by the Government in connection with devaluation of the rupee;

(b) the names and the percentage of reduction of prices of essential commodities; and

(c) the decrease in the price of (i) foodgrains, (ii) sugar, (iii) cloth, (iv) iron and (v) cement?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) to (c). In regard to reduction in prices of foodgrains, sugar and cloth, I would invite the attention of the honourable Member to the press Communiques issued by the Government on the 27th and 28th October, 1949, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. As regards iron and steel, the price of pig iron has been reduced by about seven per cent. and a proposal to effect a similar reduction in the statutory selling price of steel is now under consideration. No reduction could be made in cement prices. Coal prices have been reduced by about four per cent. and in addition a rebate of 12½ per cent. on railway freight has been granted on all coal consumed by the cotton textiles, paper and cement industries.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What has been the overall effect on the cost of living index figures as a result of these reductions?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is a little too soon for these reductions to be reflected either in the Wholesale Prices Index or in the Cost of Living Indices.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether there has been any reduction in the cost of trading?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I do not quite know what the Honourable Member means.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: The charges of trading, I mean.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In regard to these essential commodities, as I told the House during the Devaluation debate, Government propose to get this reduction in the retail selling prices effected by means either of a reduction in the firm or factory and/or a reduction in incidental charges or by both. It is very difficult for me to give precise figures in regard to each category in respect of incidental charges.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: It was stated that the Government wanted to make an overall reduction of about ten per cent. When is that target hoped to be achieved, and how?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As regards foodgrains, the matter has been under discussion with Provincial Governments and I think the decisions so far reached amount to a reduction in various parts of the country from three to fifteen per cent. If you make a weighted average for the whole of India my impression is it would come to somewhere about eight or ten per cent.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Have all Provincial Governments agreed to implement the policy of the Government of India in regard to the reduction of prices on foodgrains? If not, what are the Provinces which have differed materially from the Central Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is very difficult for me to give a precise answer to that question, but I am not aware of any Province which has not agreed to the Central Government's proposals to some extent or the other.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether Government is satisfied that there will not be any shortage of cloth hereafter and that the present level of prices will be maintained?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am afraid that question should be addressed to my honourable colleague the Minister for Industry and Supply.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know what other steps Government propose to take for reaching the ten per cent. target?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The matter is under constant review.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Have Government taken care to see that in reducing the prices of foodgrains the procurement price is not so cut down....

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

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether Government propose to provide sanctions for reduction of prices by legislation or leave the matter to gentleman's agreement between Government and producers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: So far it has been by agreement and I personally think it would be possible for us to continue that arrangement.

PORTRAIT OF SUBHAS BOSE

***389. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item with the caption "They can't bear it" which appeared in *The Nation* of Calcutta, dated October 15, 1949;

(b) whether the allegation made therein regarding the removal of the portrait of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from the premises of the Ishapur Ordnance Factory of the Government of India is correct; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The allegation is not correct. The portrait was not removed "mysteriously" but shifted to another place in front of another room, about five yards away, in the same building.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is a uniform policy pursued by Government with regard to the portraits of all our great men or is any invidious distinction made in the case of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose?

Mr. Speaker: I think it infers so much.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that early this year, sometime in February 1949, an order was issued by Headquarters, Bombay Sub Area, directing all Units that 'photos of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose be not displayed at prominent places in Unit Lines, Canteens, Quarter-guards or Recreation Rooms; there is no objection to its being displayed at some obscure corner of a barrack in lines'. Is it a fact.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, as far as this question is concerned I would require notice. But I think I have already made the position quite clear to my honourable friend when he asked for this information privately. And may I add that the Government have got the highest regard for the sacrifices of Subhas Chandra Bose and no action of anybody, in giving orders to remove his photo arbitrarily, will be tolerated. But where military discipline is concerned, there are certain orders. For instance, in regard to messes etc. the photos of military officers are generally hung there.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister in a position to assure the House that no attempt on the part of Government officers to belittle or decry the personality and achievements of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose will be countenanced or tolerated by the Government?

Mr. Speaker: Is it not covered by that answer?

Shri H. V. Kamath: If you, Sir, think it is covered, then of course I don't press it.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: May I know from what particular paper Mr. Kamath is quoting?

Shri H. V. Kamath: I shall give it to my friend later.

PRE-FABRICATED HOUSES

***390. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the person who was deputed to England by the Government of India to investigate and make a report on the possibility of setting up a factory in India for the manufacture of pre-fabricated houses;

(b) whether he was also authorized to negotiate with a British firm in that connexion;

(c) what were his previous qualifications and experience regarding pre-fabricated houses;

(d) how long did he stay in England, and the basis and contents of his report;

(e) the name of the British firm with whom he concluded the deal; and

(f) whether a similar plan for the manufacture of pre-fabricated houses had been earlier submitted by him to the Government of Mysore, and rejected by the latter?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Dr. O. H. Koenigsberger, formerly Government Architect and Town planning officer, Mysore State Government, and now Director of Housing under the Government of India, Ministry of Health.

(b) and (c). The then Finance Minister Shri Shanmukham Chetty conducted on behalf of the Government of India negotiations, with Messrs. Structural and Mechanical Development Engineers Ltd., Slough, United Kingdom, and Dr. Koenigsberger assisted him. As a result these negotiations an agreement was concluded by Government with the firm referred to.

(c) He is a Doctor of Engineering of the Berlin University and has specialised in the subjects of housing and town planning. He had experience of planning schemes for pre-fabricated houses in Germany. Since then, he has kept himself in touch with developments in the mass manufacture of houses in different countries.

(d) He stayed in England for 25 days from the 7th June to 1st July, 1948. His report is based on inspections of pre-fabricated housing estates and factories in England and Scotland, study of plans for the mass manufacture of houses and housing components and discussions with Departments of the Government of the United Kingdom which are concerned with the housing problem. The report contains (i) brief particulars of the various methods of pre-fabrication adopted in England, (ii) recommendations for the erection of a pre-fabricated housing factory in India with drawings, specifications, etc., and (iii) a draft agreement with a British firm selected for the supply of the pre-fabricated housing plant and machinery for consideration of the Government of India.

(f) Information has been called for from the Government of Mysore and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When Dr. Koenigsberger was deputed to England for investigating and making a report on this matter, was he authorised by Government to conclude a deal and submit any draft agreement with any firm in England?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir, everything was referred to the Government of India.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that Dr. Koenigsberger submitted a draft agreement with Messrs. Structural and Mechanical Development Engineers Ltd., Slough, and that agreement was then taken up by Government?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Dr. Koenigsberger went with the then Finance Minister and the then Finance Minister felt that this British firm would be a useful firm to have an agreement with and therefore a draft agreement was prepared there but it was referred back to the Government of

India and no action was taken until the Government of India had looked into the matter and finally taken a decision on it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the position—did the Finance Minister submit this draft agreement or Dr. Koenigsberger?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Finance Minister was deputed to look into this matter and Dr. Koenigsberger was deputed by the Government of India to go with him. At that time the question of housing here was very important for displaced persons. Dr. Koenigsberger had been here and after a decision by the Government he was deputed to go to England with the Finance Minister.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Were any changes made by Government in the draft agreement submitted by Dr. Koenigsberger to the Finance Minister?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am not in a position to answer that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Was Dr. Koenigsberger in Mysore Government service at the time he was deputed to England?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: He left Mysore Government service to come to the Government of India.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Was it before or after he was deputed to England?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I cannot tell the exact date.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Was any attempt made with the British firm to send their representative here for negotiations instead of sending our officer there, so that the whole matter could be discussed here before sending an officer?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether this British firm, with whom the deal has been concluded and who are putting up a factory in Delhi, have got a similar factory of their own in the U.K. for manufacturing pre-fabricated houses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir, they have a factory in the United Kingdom and are doing extensive work there.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Did the representatives of the Government who went to England to negotiate this, take any help from the representatives of the Indian Embassy there?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that that British firm submitted a similar scheme of pre-fabricated houses to the Mysore Government in 1947 and that Government rejected that scheme?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question has been replied to that the information is being called for from the Mysore Government.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether the terms of the agreement include terms also for giving training to Indians, and if so, has the training actually started and how many are being trained?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Training is being given to Indians. I could not tell the Honourable Member how many are actually under training at the moment.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that in spite of the fact that Dr. Koenigsberger's report stated that prototypes are expensive and give little indication of the cost of the ultimate product such prototypes were ordered in this country and work is proceeding?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member seems to go on arguing on this matter.

Shri H. V. Kamath: This is a fact, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: An argument also is a fact sometimes.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, my last question was not understood. I want to know, in order to avoid the expenditure of sending people from here to England, why attempts were not made to persuade that firm to send representatives so that negotiations could be carried on here?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of inference, argument and a suggestion for action, all combined.

NATIONAL FESTIVALS

***391. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names of National Festivals which Government observe or propose to observe in the country?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Only one: Independence Day.

Lala Raj Kanwar: May I know whether Government will consider the feasibility of observing Dusserah and Diwali as National festivals?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It will not be a legitimate question—it is a suggestion for action.

Lala Raj Kanwar: May I know whether Government spends any money on the illumination of public buildings on the occasion of Dewali?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Government do not propose to spend nor have Government in the past spent any money on that.

OSMANIA MEDICAL DEGREE

***392. Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Osmania Medical Degree (Hyderabad, India) is not recognised by the Indian Medical Council, while the British Medical Council have recognised it; if so, why?

(b) What are the Universities, which grant Medical Degrees in Modern Medicine in India?

(c) How many students received Medical Degrees in India in 1946, 1947 and 1948?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The Medical Degree of the Osmania University (Hyderabad-Deccan) is not recognised by the Medical Council of India. This degree is also not recognised by the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the Universities and other authorities in India which grant medical degrees in Modern Medicine and the number of persons who were awarded such degrees in 1946, 1947 and 1948 is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix X, annexure No. 2.)

***393 [WITHDRAWN.]**

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

HOLD-UPS AND DACOITIES IN DELHI

***394. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of thefts, burglaries, day light robberies and dacoities in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara during the last 3 years and the current year, and the extent of the loss of life and property resulting therefrom?

(b) What is the extent and value of the recovered property and what percentage does this bear to the total loss suffered by the public?

(c) In how many 'cases' were the thieves, dacoits, etc., traced and arrested and how many prosecutions were launched and what was the number of convictions or acquittal?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix X, annexure No. 3*).

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: May I know whether the number is on the increase?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No.

STERLING BALANCES

***395. Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement made by Mr. Attlee, the British Prime-Minister, in the House of Commons on the 27th October, 1949, and published in the *Hindustan Times* of 29th October 1949, while dealing with the questions of sterling balances, when he said, "We have to cut it down as much as we can"; and

(b) whether there has been any communication since then on this question?

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

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement which I made on this matter in the course of my speech on the motion for consideration of the Sterling Balances Agreement on the 29th of November, 1949.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: In view of the fact that such assurances have been given in the past several times and in spite of them the British Chancellor of the Exchequer or the Prime Minister or Mr. Churchill go on repeating some thing to the effect that the sterling balances should be scaled down, has any attempt been made by our Government so that this question may not be raised in future?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I must ask my honourable friend to have a little more confidence in himself. If the question is one of reducing the releases from the sterling balances in future, that would be a matter of bilateral agreement and we would have a good say in the matter. If, on the other hand, it is going to be a partial repudiation of sterling balances, the House may rest assured that Government would know how to handle the situation.

BRITISH INVESTMENTS IN INDIA

***396. Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government have got an estimate made of the total British investment in India, and if so what is its total value?

(b) What is the total amount of other foreign investments in India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). As the House is already aware, the Reserve Bank of India has undertaken a Census of Foreign Liabilities and Assets of India as on 30th June, 1948. It was originally anticipated that the final results of the Census would be available by June, 1949. Owing however, to requests to extend the date of the submission of returns up to the 30th March, 1949, and the time required for enacting parallel legislation in the States and Unions, the preliminary results are now likely to be available only after the end of December, 1949. It is not possible therefore at this stage to estimate the amount of either British or other foreign investments in India.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Is any enquiry being conducted to know the investments of Indians in foreign countries also?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is not part of this enquiry.

HOARDED CURRENCY NOTES

***397. Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Reserve bank has got any estimate as to the value of currency notes in hoarding in the whole of India and if so, how much is it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, Sir.

STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

***398. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Standing Finance Committee at its meeting on the 25th/26th March 1949 decided to have a comparative statement showing the expenditure incurred annually at present by the Government of India on their Diplomatic and Trade Missions abroad and the expenditure incurred in three-years—year by year—during the pre-independence period?

(b) Has the comparative statement referred to in part (a) above been prepared and if so, do Government propose to place a copy of the same on the Table of the House?

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

(b) Copies of two statements as circulated to members of the Standing Finance Committee are placed on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix X, annexure No. 4*.)

STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

***399. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Standing Finance Committee at its meeting on the 25th/26th March 1949 decided to set up a sub-committee to examine in detail the Defence Estimates for 1949-50?

(b) Was the Sub-committee referred to in part (a) above set up?

(c) What are the findings of the Sub-committee?

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

(b) A memorandum was circulated to the members of the Standing Finance Committee in May, 1949, suggesting the formation of a sub-committee for the examination of Defence Estimates. As, however, the Committee was busy at that time with the examination of the Economy Committee reports, no action could be taken in the matter. Thereafter the members were pre-occupied with the work of the Constituent Assembly and had also to consider several important civil expenditure schemes. The matter was again taken up in September, 1949, but as the Rules of Procedure of the Legislature under the New Constitution and setting up of an Estimates Committee were then under consideration, it was felt that the matter should be deferred till a decision on the setting up of an Estimates Committee was taken.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri B. Das: How long will it take for the Government or the Standing Finance Committee to reach a decision that there should be an Estimates Committee in the House?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is not a matter for the Standing Finance Committee.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether the idea to set up a sub-committee has been abandoned or it is still under consideration and the sub-committee will be set up?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It has been for the time being dropped pending a decision on that wider issue.

Shri B. Das: Will the Defence estimates for 1950-51 be placed before the sub-committee of the Standing Finance Committee before the Honourable the Finance Minister incorporates them in the Budget estimates?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: My reply covers that point.

Shri B. Das: It does not cover it. We do not know one way or other how Budget estimates will be shaped?

Mr. Speaker: He is arguing. Next question.

MEDICAL OFFICERS

*400. **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the number of I.M.S. and I.A.M.C. officers released after the World War No. 2?

(b) How many of them have been re-employed by the Government?

(c) Is it a fact that the medical officers, who served during the last War, were given the assurance of employment in other medical services, such as State or Railway medical Services?

(d) What facilities have been provided for rehabilitation of the released medical officers in civil life?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) (i) I.M.S. 3,030 and (ii) I.A.M.C. 2,270.

(b) (i) I.M.S. 807 and (ii) I.A.M.C. 369.

(c) No assurances were given to medical personnel who served during the last war about their resettlement but they were told that some appointments

would be reserved for them in the Central and Provincial Medical and Public Health Services.

(d) Rehabilitation of the released medical officers in civil life is a Provincial responsibility. Necessary assistance to the released personnel has been provided through the Provincial and State Medical Employment Bureaux which were established in the various Provinces and States for the purpose of assisting demobilised personnel in securing employment under Government as well as under semi-Government and non-Government institutions.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: What exactly does the Minister imply in telling foreign countries that we are short of medical men when there are so many people unemployed?

Mr. Speaker: He is arguing.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know the number of licentiates employed in the war and the number released? May I also know the number who have received a chance of continuing their studies in the M.B.B.S. course?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I could not give off-hand the actual number of licentiates that were released, but as many as wanted to take advantage of the shortened course that has been arranged for them at the Lake Medical College in Calcutta and now in other provinces also have been given the chance and I think I am right in saying that over a thousand have already taken advantage of that course.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know if there are many others left who want to take advantage of this course, but they did not get the facilities?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It is not right to say that they do not get the facilities, but sometimes applications are more than we can cater for, but they are taken as far as possible and now in many of the provinces also, further facilities are going to be made available to them.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: Is it a fact that the Honourable Minister made a statement in foreign countries that we are short of medical men when there are so many unemployed?

Mr. Speaker: That is again a matter of argument.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

*401. **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the number of medical appointments under her control remaining vacant at present in spite of advertisements?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Five.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: When are they going to be filled up?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: According to an injunction issued to all the Ministries, posts cannot be filled up unless we get the sanction of Finance for them. Some of them have been held up on that account. One particular post in the Lady Hardinge College has been held up only until the re-organisation of that College takes place.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know what are these appointments?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

BORDER RAIDS

*492. **Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of raids by Pakistan nationals across the frontier between April, 1949 to date?

(b) What was the loss in life and property due to these raids?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) About 65 upto the 15th November, 1949.

(b) Persons killed or wounded 69, cattle lifted or killed 440, and value of property (other than cattle) lost Rs. 40,000.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether Government propose to arm the civilian population of the border to stop the recurrence of these raids?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Steps have already been taken by the Provincial Government to arm such civilians as are considered necessary who are capable of protecting the borders.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Were there any abductions also during these raids?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have no information. The question does not ask for information on that point.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Were any raiders arrested?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got any information. Most probably, some may have been arrested.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

COURSES OF STUDY IN DELHI SCHOOLS

*403. **Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the courses in Zoology, Botany and Science prescribed for the final year in Higher Secondary Schools of the Delhi Board are required to be taken up by the Higher Secondary Schools right from the 9th class;

(b) whether Government are aware that the courses referred to in part (a) above are all in English;

(c) whether Government are aware that practically all the middle schools have no arrangements for teaching of the subjects referred to in part (a) above and that the standard of English in the middle classes is far lower than the standard used in the books prescribed for these subjects for the Higher Secondary Classes; and

(d) whether the Principals of the Higher Secondary Schools are fully empowered to change the subjects of such of their students who may be found weak in Botany, Zoology and Science for the reasons alluded to in part (c) above?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes. The Higher Secondary Examination is a three-year course commencing from the IXth Class and students are required to take up the subjects from that class.

(b) Yes, the courses referred to above are all in English. This is due to the fact that suitable books on these subjects are not available in modern Indian languages. The students can, however, answer the questions on these subjects set for the Higher Secondary Examination in modern Indian languages.

(c) Yes, there are practically no arrangements in the Middle Schools for the teaching of Science Subjects like Zoology, Botany, Physics, etc. as such, though some elementary everyday science is taught. It is also correct that the standard of English in the Middle Departments is lower than that used in the Science Books prescribed for Higher Secondary Classes. But in view of the fact that the students of the Higher Secondary Classes are allowed to answer questions in the modern Indian languages, no real difficulty arises.

(d) The principals of the Higher Secondary Schools cannot on their own give permission to the students to change over, but can do so with the approval of the Board of Higher Secondary Education, Delhi Province.

POLICE OFFICERS

*404. **Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of officers of the rank of Inspectors and above, employed in the Delhi Police including Special Police Establishment of the Home Ministry, and the number drawn from each province; and

(b) the names of the gazetted officers out of those referred to in part (a) above who have been in Delhi, continuously for more than three years in one capacity or the other?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix X, annexure No. 5.)

TAXATION IN KUTCH

*405. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state from what date the Income Tax Act is made applicable to and the tax levied upon assesseees in Kutch?

(b) Have any precautions been taken, or safeguards adopted to see that the sudden application of the Income Tax Act to this Centrally Administered Area of Kutch does not cause hardship to the tax-payer?

(c) Have any arrangements been made to explain the rules and regulations for this tax to the people?

(d) Has any representation been made by any public organisation, or individuals affected in Kutch by this Taxation, and if so, what response has been made by Government to such a representation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Indian Income-tax Act, 1922 was extended to Kutch on the 26th August 1949 by the Taxation Laws (Extension to Merged States) Ordinance, 1949;

(b) In extending the Taxation Acts to the Merged States, the Ordinance amended the Income-tax Act and the Business Profits Tax Act by including a provision which empowers the Central Government to make an exemption or reduction in rate or any other modification in respect of income-tax or business profits tax in favour of any class of income or class of persons in order to avoid any hardship or anomaly arising as a result of the extension of the Acts to the Merged States. An order under section 60A of the Income-tax Act and section 23A of the Business Profits Tax Act has been issued which broadly speaking provides *inter alia* that the tax chargeable on the income arising in the Merged State upto the date of merger would not exceed the tax that would have been payable at the rates of tax in force in the Merged State immediately prior to the date of merger. If there was no income-tax in a State—and Kutch is a

state which had no income tax—no tax would be payable on such income arising in the state upto the date of merger as would not otherwise be taxable in India.

(c) The instructions explaining the concessions given in the order under section 60A of the Income-tax Act and section 23A of the Business Profits Tax Act are being circulated to all Chambers of Commerce.

(d) Representations have been received recently from the Anjar Merchants Association, from Ali-Kutch Income-tax relief Conference and from a number of individuals. They urge that the application of the Income-tax Act to Kutch be postponed indefinitely till this area has developed industrially. Concessions have been ordered by Government under section 60A of the Income-tax Act, as already stated in the reply to part (b) of the question.

CURRENCY IN KUTCH

*406. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government are aware that before the merger of the State of Kutch in the Union of India, and its constitution into a Chief Commissionership, a different currency was in use in that area, with a fluctuating rate of exchange with the Indian Rupee?

(b) If so, what arrangements have been made to convert into Rupees the accounts of the Kutch assesses to the Indian Income Tax?

(c) Is any relief proposed to be given to these assesses on account of the variations, during the year of assessment, in their currency in terms of the Rupee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). A silver kori currency with a fluctuating rate of exchange (with subsidiary copper coins) was in circulation in Kutch till the 25th April, 1949, when it was demonetized. Facilities for the exchange of koris at the rate of 300 koris per rupees hundred were granted in treasuries and sub-treasuries in Kutch with effect from the first March, 1949 and were extended for a period of six months after the 25th April, 1949.

(c) Does not arise as the kori currency is no longer legal tender.

CULTIVATED LAND IN KUTCH

*407. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to inform the House what is the total land under cultivation in Kutch, during the years 1947-48, 1948-49, and 1949-50 (estimates)?

(b) Is it intended to introduce a new system of Land Revenue Settlement in Kutch, and if so, what steps have been taken for the purpose?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The total area under cultivation in 1947-48 was 5,66,635 acres; in 1948-49, 2,58,000 acres; and in 1949-50, 8,17,365 acres.

(b) Yes. Funds have been allotted, the work of Survey has commenced, and a settlement Officer with necessary staff will shortly be appointed.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Thursday, 8th December, 1949

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

COLOURING OF VEGETABLE GHEE

*408. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to the colouring of vegetable ghee?

(b) If so, what is the process by which the vegetable ghee will be coloured?

(c) What steps are taken to see that the process of colouring is strictly adhered to?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). The possibility of using turmeric and *Ratanjoti* as colouring materials for *Vanaspatti* is being discussed with the manufacturers.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of the United Provinces have introduced a Bill in connection with the colouring of vegetable ghee and have asked for the views of the Government of India? Have they not also suggested a particular colour—yellow probably? What action have the Government of India taken in this matter?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The United Provinces have some legislation with regard to the colouring of *vanaspatti*. But they have not come to any final decision with regard to the colour.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Have they not approached the Government of India as to their view on this matter?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They have not approached us for our views. But we have given them permission to use whatever colour they consider to be proper.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Scientific Research Institute has been consulted in this matter as to what kind of colour could be used which would distinguish the vegetable product from pure ghee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: About twelve colours were considered and we have asked for the views of the industry on two of them.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether it is now finally settled as to which colour will now be used in the vegetable product?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That can only be decided after the suitability of the colour has been finally determined.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the fact that this question has been coming up time and again before this Assembly for so many years past, will Government either take a decision or give up the whole question of colouring of vegetable ghee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is no question of taking any decision. We can only decide upon a colour which is not injurious to health, which does not disappear on heating and which does not after heating resemble cow's ghee.

Ultimately we have suggested two colours and we are discussing the matter with the industry.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has Government, Sir, banned the use of the term 'ghee' in connection with this product?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Shri H. V. Kamath: But have Government taken any steps to see that their decision to ban the use of the term 'ghee' in connection with this product is being observed by the sellers and merchants?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government are taking steps to see that the word ghee is not used.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: In view of the fact that no colour has yet been decided upon, may I ask, what objection has the Government to stop the adulteration process at least?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Has the Government got any scientific investigation made into the question as to whether the consumption of vegetable ghee is injurious to public health?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, investigations have been made and have been completed. I will be placing in the Library of the House a few copies of the results of the detailed tests which have been carried out in the laboratories.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Is it not a fact that the colour used in the vegetable product can be easily de-coloured?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There are some colours which can be decoloured by heating or by chemical treatment.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Sir, may we know, in brief, the results of the investigations made by Government?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Vanaspati Research Planning Committee considered the report from the various institutes and have come to certain conclusions. They have said that in comparative feeding experiments carried on at four different research centres, on rats for three generations with raw groundnut oil, refined groundnut oil and *vanaspati* at melting points 37° Centigrade and 40° Centigrade, the results are that there is no deleterious effect produced by *vanaspati* as compared with raw or refined oil.

With regard to human feeding trials carried out at four different centres, they indicate that *vanaspati* at melting point 37 has no harmful effect, as compared with raw groundnut oil.

With regard to the relative nutritive value of raw groundnut oil, refined groundnut oil, *vanaspati* and ghee, the matter is being further examined and the data collected is being analysed.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In view of the fact that the result of the test was that *vanaspati* is quite fit for human consumption, why should it be decolourised at all? Why are the Government anxious to colour vegetable ghee when the commodity is so useful for human consumption?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is no question of its being so useful. The question was whether it was having any harmful effect. With a view to finding this out, tests have been carried out and the fullest data will be placed in the Library of the House for the examination by members of the Assembly.

The object of colouring *vanaspati* is to prevent adulteration.

Shri Upendranath Barman: May I know, Sir, whether Government have taken any steps meanwhile to prevent adulteration of *vanaspati* with ghee and also to prevent dishonest traders from selling *vanaspati* as ghee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Steps have been taken. The use of the word 'ghee' has been banned in the case of the vegetable product and anybody who sells *vanaspati* is not allowed to sell ghee in the same shop. Then the Provincial Governments have got full powers to prevent adulteration and take steps against adulteration.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: From the reply of the Honourable Minister may I conclude that the consumption of this vegetable product is neither useful nor harmful?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Do Government consider the results of these tests as final and absolute?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They are before Government for consideration.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Is it not a fact, Sir, that some consumers of vegetable ghee have contracted T.B.?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable Minister has already answered that question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the result of the experiments carried on at the Izatnagar Laboratory?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The experiments carried on by the Izatnagar Institute were on a different diet. Ultimately all the specialists agreed to prescribe common diets and the results which I gave are based on those diets.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: The Honourable Minister said that two colours have been suggested to the manufacturers. Will Government decide which colour to choose after the approval of the manufacturers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government will decide.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES AT HEADQUARTERS OF POSTMASTER GENERAL

*409. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Advisory Committees have been set up at the headquarters of each Postmaster General?

(b) If so, what are the names of such headquarters and do these Committees consist of official or non-official members?

(c) What are the functions of these Committees?

(d) Are Government aware of the complaints made of the delay in the delivery of letters and does that matter come within the purview of the Committee?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving the headquarters of Heads of Postal Circles is placed on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix XI, annexure No. 1.*)

These Advisory Committees consist of both official and non-official members.

(c) The function of these Committees is advisory; a statement showing the subjects which come within the purview of the Committees is laid on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix XI, annexure No. 2.*)

(d) Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the answer to part (b) that there are non-official members also? I could not hear it.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Yes. These Advisory Committees consist of both official and non-official members.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the answer to part (d)?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Yes.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether in the statement showing the functions which he has laid on the Table, include the question of delay of delivery of letters, money orders and V.P.Ps. and are these questions also referred to the Advisory Committees?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Yes.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know how many money orders and V.P.Ps. were pending disposal, that is to say not delivered to the addressees?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I would be able to answer this question if I get notice. It does not arise out of this question.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Thousands of money orders and letters have not yet been delivered to the addressees and were these matters referred to the Advisory Committees?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is not strictly relevant to the issue.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: It is the function of the Advisory Committee to consider this. May I know whether the Advisory Committee ever consider these matters in any Province?

Shri Khurshed Lal: It is not one Advisory Committee. In each Province there is a separate Advisory Committee and these committees consider matters which are brought up by the various members.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I want to know whether any of the Provincial Committees consider these matters.

Shri Khurshed Lal: I require notice of this.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I ask, Sir, how often do these Committees meet?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Once a quarter.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister aware of a suggestion made by the Post Master General, Nagpur that the Committee should meet oftener?

Shri Khurshed Lal: If the members certainly brought more work, the Committee could meet more often.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Have Government received any complaints that letters posted in Delhi do not go anywhere and we do not know what has happened to those letters?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All these are not relevant to this issue. It is the business of the Advisory Committee.

Thakur Krishna Singh: Is the Government aware of the complaint that a telegram that contained the word "immediately" was changed into "soon" by the Telegraph Department?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether a firm named Morgan Miller Ltd. in Bombay, made a representation to the Government that they sent a parcel on the 14th December, 1948 and they issued reminders up to the 9th February, 1949, when it was not even delivered and asked for further information and despite many letters, the postal authorities have not replied?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable Minister need not answer that question. If Members address their complaints to the Minister in charge, he will certainly give an answer. If after all these methods are exhausted, and they do not get the necessary information, then this is the forum to which they may come. I think that matters of policy generally must be agitated here and not individual cases.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I have got 15 complaints where the matter has been referred for a number of months and no attention is paid to them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not know but if in spite of these complaints the Honourable Minister does not care to look into the complaints then the Honourable Member will have an opportunity in the Budget Session and he can then do what he likes.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: In view of the fact that the Speaker has admitted these questions in spite of their being repeatedly raised, is it fair that this thing should be ruled from the Chair again?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question that is admitted is of a general nature, and is regarding Advisory Committees.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

*410. **Shri R. K. Sidhva**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the total strength of geologists in India?

(b) How many geologists are provided in each province?

(c) Have Government considered any proposal to explore various parts of the country for rich minerals and if so, what is the scheme?

(d) Has the Director, Geological Survey of India, explored the area in Assam and Rajputana for petroleum and other minerals and made a report?

(e) If so, what is the nature of the report?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) I am not aware of the total strength of Geologists in India. The number of Geological Officers at present employed in the Geological Survey of India which is a Central Government Organisation, is 145. According to the information collected by the Geological Survey of India in September, 1949, the number of Geologists employed all over India is about 315, including the 145 employed in the Geological Survey of India itself. I understand that the Department of Scientific Research maintains a register

of unemployed technical personnel, but this includes only those who care to get themselves registered, and is not therefore a correct index of the total number of personnel available in the country.

(b) The geological staff is allocated to the different provinces each year according to the investigations intended to be carried out during the field season which commences in November and lasts till the end of April. A statement showing the allocation of the officers to the different provinces during the current field season is laid on the Table. (See *Appendix XI, annexure No. 3.*)

(c) The Government of India have already approved a five year plan drawn up by the Director, Geological Survey of India in 1946, of the work to be pursued by that Department, and the plan is being followed generally subject to the modifications necessitated by *ad hoc* demands for urgent investigations. The programme of work to be undertaken during each field season is drawn up every year by the Director, Geological Survey of India, in consultation with the Governments of the Province and States, and is approved by the Government of India. A copy of the programme of investigations intended to be undertaken during the current field season is laid on the Table. (*Copy placed in the Library. See No. IV-R.2(4)/50.*)

(d) The answer is in the affirmative.

(e) A copy of the report is laid on the Table. (See *Appendix XI, annexure No. 4.*)

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Honourable Minister considers the number of geologists in Government service, namely 145 a sufficient number in view of the large research required and the potential wealth of the country? If not, what efforts Government are making to increase the number of geologists and do training facilities exist?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I agree with the Honourable Member that the number is insufficient in view of the circumstances mentioned by him, but I would like to tell him that the number was just 30 in the year 1941 and as great efforts were made during the last six years the number has come to 145. The Five year plan that has been referred to in part (c) of the reply contemplates the number being taken up to 250 and whether we will be able to implement it largely depends upon the finances of the country.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: In reply to my question to part (d), may I know whether the Geological Officer to the Government of India has stated that there is large petroleum and other minerals in Cutch (Gulf of Cambay), Rajputana and South Assam? If that is so, may I know whether any report has been made and to what effect?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As already stated, copies are laid on the Table.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the result of the research, any idea, Sir?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Roughly the idea is that so far as Rajputana area is concerned, there is not much to encourage as regards striking of petrol but there are other minerals in plenty. As regards Assam the prospects are really bright.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: How many Geologists have been allocated to the Province of Assam and where are they working now?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: All that information is laid on the Table. I may inform the Honourable Member that seven Geologists have been allotted for Assam.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have any fresh research of any minerals been found by our 145 experts?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes, Sir.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: What are they?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Well, if the Honourable Member is anxious he might read the reports, copies of which are always to be found in the Library of this House.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Have any explorations been made in the Dooars region in Jalpaiguri district?

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

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do the rich minerals referred to in the answer include the radio-active minerals such as thorium, uranium as well as precious stones and diamonds?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The minerals are there and whether they are radio-active or whether they are diamonds it is for the Honourable Member to make out.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: May I know whether the Government has any proposal to send a few geologists to foreign countries for advanced studies?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That has been the policy, subject to financial consideration.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know what these geologists do from April to November?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: They write their reports at the headquarters.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know the total cost incurred on these geologists?

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

Shri Raj Bahadur: Have any efforts been made by them to find out whether there are any water-currents beneath the desert in Rajputana?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Not by this Department in particular.

ARREARS OF RENT

*411. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the arrears of rent and other dues to be recovered from various departments and individuals upto now for buildings and other properties in their possession?

(b) Will Government please lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the details of such arrears referred to in part (a) above year by year for the last ten years?

(c) What is the cause for these arrears and what steps do Government intend to take for their recovery?

(d) How much of the outstanding amount is expected to be recovered?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) to (d). The information desired by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I ask whether these statistics are not available in the Estate Office to give the House the information regarding the total amount of arrears of rent?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I never said that the information is not available. It is being collected.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Generally if information is asked for from a Department it is made available within ten days. If the information is to be collected from the various Provinces and so on it may take time. This information is available in Estate Office in Delhi. I want to know the arrears that have to be collected. Unless it is an inconvenient answer that has to be given, there is no need to evade giving the information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would like, Honourable Members not to cast aspersions against other Honourable Members or Ministers. We must accept the statement of an Honourable Minister at its face value. If it is possible to answer the question now the Honourable Minister would do so. It will probably take sometime to collect the information regarding past years. Therefore the Honourable Member will have to wait for an answer.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it not possible to give the total amount of the arrears? Would the Honourable Minister oblige us by telling us in round sum what the arrears are likely to be?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is the very question he has answered. He wants some more time to give the information.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I did not cast any aspersions on the Minister. I only wanted to know whether I am entitled to have an information which is important. I only wanted to know the total amount of arrears.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I will give him all the details department-wise, city-wise, etc., as soon as the information is available. It may not take more than a week to collect it.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: As regards part (c) of the question, Sir, which relates to the cause of these arrears, does the Honourable Minister require time to give an answer?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Once for all these matters will arise again in connection with the steps taken for the recovery of the arrears, if any.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Will the Honourable Minister kindly give an answer to part (c) at least?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the good of knowing that? When lakhs are to be collected, a certain policy may be adopted. If the arrears are only Rs. 100 there will not be room for any change in policy of collection. It is no good further cross-examining the Minister. Even when more than once the Honourable Minister has answered that he is taking time to collect the information, it is no good pursuing the matter. It seems unseemly to do so.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: May I know how we are bound to accept the statements of Ministers at their face value?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Otherwise no work of the Assembly will go on. I am not prepared to allow further discussion on this question.

PETROL AND KEROSENE OIL

***412. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

- the sources of supply of Petrol and Kerosene oil in the Indian Union;
- the quantities of Petrol and Kerosene oil supplied by different countries to India; and
- what percentage of the total quantities consumed in India is produced in India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The sources of supply of petrol and kerosene are as follows:

	Petrol		Kerosene	
		Tons		Tons
Iran	278,229	"	295,748	"
Bahrein	58,154	"	61,382	"
Malaya	3,340	"	1,930	"
N.E.I.	7,444	"	...	"
Saudi Arabia	...	"	7,029	"
Sumatra	41,770	"	45,775	"
	388,937	"	411,864	"

(c) 6.8 per cent. of the total quantity of petrol and kerosene consumed in India during the first eight months of 1949 were produced in India.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: In part (a) of the question I wanted to know the sources of petrol and kerosene in the Indian Union and not outside the country.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I have given the answer under (a) (iii). Indigenous production, i.e., Digboi in Assam.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: From which areas these are bought, from hard currency areas or soft currency areas?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. My submission to the consideration of Honourable Members is that I propose to give the first preference to the Member who has tabled the question and after he has exhausted his questions, give a chance to other Members. It will be inconvenient if all Members rise as soon as the Minister has answered the main question.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the production of petrol and kerosene in our own country has increased, decreased or has remained stationary after we became Independent?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It has not increased so far. Before the Partition, the percentage was obviously higher, but after Partition it is steady. It is expected that after the completion of railway link with Assam the production will increase.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether, in addition to the companies that are already operating, there is scope for any new company in our country?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Obviously there is scope; but no new company has so far applied for a prospecting licence.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What are the causes for the scarcity of kerosene oil in our country today?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The scarcity is due to shortage of foreign exchange. If we have sufficient foreign exchange we can import any quantity.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: What is the total cost of petrol and kerosene at the source and whether payment is made in dollars or in sterling?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are on the quantities of petrol and kerosene and we not to the realm of foreign exchange.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know what portion of trade in kerosene and petrol is handled in India by purely foreign concerns?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So far as distribution is concerned, it is entirely in foreign hands.

Mr. Frank Anthony: May I know what stage has been reached in the matter of Government's hope of producing synthetic petrol?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: This question should be directed to the Honourable Minister in charge of Industries.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: Is it a fact that in Digboi the production has gone down from 8 crores of gallons to 6 crores of gallons, and if so, what is the reason? Is it due to labour trouble?

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

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: I was supplied this information the other day. I am asking for the reason for the reduction.

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

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: The Honourable Minister stated that no fresh companies have applied for licences. In view of the fact that oil is an essential commodity, will the Government of its own accord try to tap these sources?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: We are making all possible efforts but this industry is not an easy one. It requires technical personnel of a very high character and the capital required is enormous.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is there any possibility of any improvement in the supply of kerosene oil in the near future for the rural areas?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is already answered.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Digboi Oil Company an Indian company or a foreign company?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is not an Indian company; it is a British company.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

*413. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Damodar Valley Corporation is confronted with some difficulty regarding the acquisition of land as the normal procedure delays acquisition even of such lands as are not cultivated or do not contain buildings;

(b) whether it is a fact that the matter was being pursued with the Bihar Government; and

(c) if so, with what results?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Special legislation is under consideration of the Bihar Government in consultation with the Damodar Valley Corporation.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know what is the normal procedure for land acquisition on the part of the Damodar Valley Corporation?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The normal procedure is laid down in the Land Acquisition Act. What I understand is that the Land Acquisition Act makes special provision for the acquisition of land for purposes of a company. Inasmuch as the Damodar Valley Corporation has been considered by the Bihar Government as a company, it was found very difficult to go through the whole procedure. In order to obviate this difficulty and to expedite the acquisition of land, the Bihar Government has now agreed to pass special legislation enabling the Corporation to get the land much quicker.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the Damodar Valley Corporation has had to face some litigation on account of this land acquisition?

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

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know what alternative arrangements are being made by the Damodar Valley Corporation for the displaced agriculturists?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think that question was dealt with when the Bill bringing into existence the Damodar Valley Corporation was under consideration. The assurance given by the Government of India was that, as far as possible, alternative land will be given to those who will be expropriated and model villages will also be established. I understand that all efforts on these lines are being made by the Corporation.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know whether any instances have been brought to the notice of the Government where *kisans* have been evicted from their land without payment of due compensation to them?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No, Sir.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What is the total number of persons displaced?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: If it can be only approximate, it is expected to be about 1,50,000 will be affected.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: So many families or people?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Families.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many dams are under construction at present?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I do not know whether it arises from this question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This question covers only land acquisition and not the entire field of the Damodar Valley Corporation. Next question.

ARTIFICIAL RAINS

*414. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what experiments have been carried out by Government for inducing artificial rains?

(b) What are the results of such experiments, if carried out?

(c) Is there any possibility of successfully inducing artificial rains in this country as has been done in countries like Australia?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). No experiments for inducing artificial rainfall have been carried out by Government. The usual method followed in the course of experiments in Canada, Australia and U.S.A. is to drop dry ice on to clouds above the freezing level from aeroplanes. For this purpose the aircraft must fly above 17,000 feet and upto 25,000 feet above sea level. It has not been possible for the R.I.A.F. to undertake the necessary operations for experimental work nor are satisfactory machines available with the Air Service Companies. In other countries the work is at the experimental stage. No large scale agricultural operations are reported to have been undertaken with the aid of artificial rain in these countries.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister in a position to state whether the sacrifice of *Yagna* performed recently in Saurashtra or somewhere thereabout was part of these experiments, or whether the *Yagna* was in pursuance of the Gita injunction यज्ञाद् भवति पर्जन्यो ("yajnad bhavati parjanyo")?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable Member is casting an aspersion on *Yagna*. This question deals with artificial rain. He is talking of spiritual rain.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Will the Honourable Minister kindly state that no money will be wasted on such experiments which are of doubtful utility?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No large amount of money will be spent.

INDIAN AIRWAYS COMPANIES

***415. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state what are the Indian Airways Companies that are wholly owned by Indians?

(b) In how many of them do the Government of India hold shares and what are the respective amounts of shares owned by them?

(c) What are the total number of Pilots and Engineers employed in those companies?

(d) What is the percentage of foreigners amongst such employees?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) A statement giving the names of the companies registered in India, 15 in all, is placed on the Table. (See Appendix XI, annexure No. 5.)

In the case of all of them except two the capital is owned wholly or almost wholly by Indians, though a few shares may be held by non-Indians. Of the two exceptions, one, *viz.*, the Air Survey Company of India Limited, is British owned, and in other, namely the Himalayan Aviation Limited, over 60 per cent. of the share capital is held by two persons from Nepal who are now settled in India and the remaining shares by Indians and Europeans.

(b) Only in the Air India International Limited. The Government of India hold 49 per cent. of the share capital of this Company, amounting to Rs. 98 lakhs out of Rs. 2 crores subscribed, with an option to acquire another two per cent. at any time.

(c) 276 pilots and 289 engineers.

(d) 27.54 per cent. and 9.69 per cent. respectively.

DELHI TRANSPORT SERVICE

***416. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred by Government for Delhi Transport Service upto date;

(b) the number of employees discharged for bribery and corruption after Government took up the administration from the G.N.I.T.; and

(c) the total number of employees at present?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Rs. 99,05,949 upto the 30th September, 1949. This figure includes Capital and Revenue expenditure but does not include depreciation and interest for period, 1st April to 30th September, 1949.

(b) 83 upto 10th November, 1949.

(c) 1,452 as on 31st October, 1949.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know how many of these persons belong to the manual labourers group, including drivers, conductors, etc., and how many of them belong to the clerical staff?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The number is made up as follows:

Traffic Inspector—1, Travelling Ticket Examiners—3, Clerk—1, Booking Agents—2, Conductors—67, Drivers—5, Fitters—2, Assistant Fitter—1 and Upholsterer—1.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What is the total number of female employees in the D.T.S. and how many of them were evicted on charges of bribery and corruption?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I require notice of that question.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know the salaries of the drivers, the conductors and mechanics and also the chief executive officer of the concern?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: All these things are beyond the scope of the question. I cannot keep all information relating to the D.T.S. in my head.

GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP AT CONNAUGHT CIRCUS

***417. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a Government-owned workshop situated in Connaught Circus?

(b) If so, for how many years has it been there and what has been the investment made by Government on it and what is the amount realised therefrom by way of rent?

(c) Is it a fact that during the last seven years Government have not run it?

(d) Is it a fact that it was let out to a private firm on a small monthly rental? If so, when did the lease expire?

(e) Has it been lying idle since the expiry of the lease? If so, why? If not, what has been the total output of work done in the workshop since the lease expired?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) There are four workshops—three for repairing fans, air-conditioners and automobiles, and a fourth for mechanical jobs. They are situated contiguous to each other in an area which also contains two godowns.

(b) The mechanical workshop was established at its present site at Barakhamba in 1914 and came under the control of the Central Public Works Department in 1935. The machinery and shed is part of the original workshop installed in 1914 in connection with the New Capital Project, and as the cost was charged to that project, it is not possible to find out the actual investment made for the workshop. The present value of the tools and machines is about Rs. 8,000. Rent realised from the contractors who ran this workshop under a contract was Rs. 300 p.m.

(c) and (d). The mechanical workshop was run by a contractor, Sardar Mohan Singh on behalf of Government under a contract which expired on the 30th September, 1948. The other workshops and godowns have always been run departmentally.

(e) The workshop remained idle only from October to December, 1948, as the question of running it departmentally by the Central Public Works Department was under consideration by Government. The total output from January, 1949 to October, 1949 is Rs. 7,250 approximately.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Agriculture requested the Works, Mines and Power Ministry to place this workshop at their disposal for making implements and manufacture of hand rotary rigs last year and the Works, Mines and Power Ministry has not yet been able to come to a decision during the past one year with the result that the workshop has been lying idle?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice of that question. I cannot say off-hand whether such a request was received by my Ministry.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: How long will it take the Works, Mines and Power Ministry to make use of this workshop?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: My reply to part (e) of the question clearly states that the income from this workshop during the period January to October was Rs. 7,250 approximately. The workshop has not been lying idle.

Shri B. L. Sondhi: It was lying idle for fifteen months.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENTS IN STATES

†418. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state if there are still any States who have their own Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the advisability of taking over such units?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the State Post Offices and Telephone Systems have already been taken over, while others will be integrated in course of time.

RIVER PROJECTS AND SCHEMES

†419. **Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state what river projects or other schemes have been abandoned or slowed down by Government as a result of its recent economy drive?

(b) What projects or schemes have been given or are to be given lesser grants than originally fixed for the current year and to what extent?

(c) How far has the progress of the projects or schemes thereby been affected?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) to (c). A statement giving details of the schemes sponsored by the Works, Mines and Power Ministry is placed on

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

the Table, which gives an idea of the proposed budget provision for 1950-51. (See Appendix XI, annexure No. 6.) It will be seen that no budget provision will be made for some of the schemes for the year 1950-51, while the provision for river valley schemes will be considerably reduced. The reduction in the amount of money allotted for various projects is likely to affect the progress of the schemes to a considerable extent.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: What was the total demand made by the Works, Mines and Power Ministry and what was the sum granted?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The figures given in the statement will show the budget provision for 1949-50. As to any reduction by way of revised budget I may say that we were asked to reduce in a rough way our budget by 20 per cent.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is going to be the consequence of that reduction in the way of the extension of the period of the completion of these projects?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It cannot be stated precisely but broadly it may be said that there is bound to be delay in the completion of the various schemes.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: What will be the amount of loan that will be received from the International Bank this year for the Damodar Valley Project?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So far as the Damodar Valley Corporation is concerned I think the proposal is still under consideration by the International Bank.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether the slow down is due to sterling, dollar or rupee difficulties?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: All put together.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: Do Government contemplate floating any loan for financing these projects?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: This question should rather be addressed to the Honourable Finance Minister.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: How many projects have been totally abandoned?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So far no project has been totally abandoned. The three main projects, viz., Bhakra, Damodar Valley and Hirakud—are still being pursued at the proposed rate. The rate of progress may be less in course of time if we are not able to have sufficient rupee finance. So far as investigation and other related matters are concerned with respect to the other schemes, there has been considerable reduction in the staff and consequently the rate of investigation will be slower.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Are we to understand that if the loan from the International Bank is not granted the Damodar Valley Project will be scrapped?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Nothing of that kind.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What is the total expenditure up till now on these projects?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice but if the Honourable Member would be satisfied with some rough estimate, I may tell him that over the Damodar Valley Corporation we spent four crores last year. On Hirakud we have spent about the same amount till now.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Are Government aware of the fact that if a sum of eight crores are not given to East Punjab for the Bhakra Dam there is danger of the tunnel bursting?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: There is no such danger.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: In view of the paucity of funds what portion of the work will be towards flood control, what portion towards irrigation and what portion for water power?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So far as the Damodar Valley scheme is concerned the first preference is already being given to the generation of power.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether it was contemplated by Government that irrigation and flood-control measures should be given preference over other measures?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: There was no such cut-and-dried proposal but when the Corporation came into existence, it being a fairly autonomous body, it came to the conclusion that the power aspect of the project should come into existence first, because it will bring in money much quicker.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: What is the reaction of the Bengal and Bihar Governments regarding this?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think the Honourable Member himself knows it better than I do.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: What is the total amount spent on the Bhakra Dam?

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

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Is it possible now to switch over the scheme from generating of power to flood control and irrigation?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is possible but it will be an act of sheer madness.

DAMODAR VALLEY AND BHAKRA DAM PROJECTS

†*420. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state (a) the progress made in the Damodar Valley and Bhakra Dam Projects; and (b) when the first increased yield of Food Grains with the improved irrigation is likely to come?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Two statements (Nos. I and II) giving the progress made in the Damodar Valley and Bhakra Dam Projects are placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XI, annexure No. 7.)

(b) The irrigation schemes of the Damodar Valley Project are expected to yield partial results from 1951. As regards the Bhakra Dam Project the entire work could be completed by 1955-56 and first instalment of perennial irrigation started in the year 1954, while Kharif irrigation over considerable areas could be provided by 1952.

POSTAGE RATES

†*421. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the amount of profit that has accrued to Government on account of increased rate of postage on envelopes and post-cards?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): Detailed particulars of income and expenditure separately for each item of traffic are not maintained. As such, it is not possible to furnish the information asked for.

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

DELHI TELEPHONE SYSTEM

†*422. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state (a) if Government are aware that there have been complaints about the telephone system in Delhi and New Delhi areas, and (b) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the system?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) and (b). There were many complaints against the telephone systems of Delhi and New Delhi some months back; but their number went down appreciably after introduction of message rate system of charging and consequent reduction of load on the switchboards. The effects of a special efficiency drive which was launched in September last are also being noticed. The number of complaints in New Delhi has now been reduced by 60 per cent. In Old Delhi the results are not so good on account of the equipment being old but the number of complaints there also is decreasing. Steps have been taken to replace the old equipment.

IMPORT OF LOCOMOTIVES

*423. **Shri C. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the total number of B.G. and M.G. locomotives imported during the half year ended 30th September, 1949 from

(i) hard currency areas; and

(ii) soft currency areas?

(b) How many more locomotives are expected to arrive in India during the course of this year?

(c) Has the devaluation of the rupee affected the import programme of the locomotives?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Total number of broad and metre gauge locomotives imported during the half year ending September, 1949 are as under:

(i) From hard currency areas: Broad Gauge—202, Metre Gauge—Nil.

(ii) From soft currency areas: Broad Gauge—Nil, Metre Gauge—4.

(b) Further locomotives which are expected to arrive in India from 1st October, 1949 to 31st March, 1950 are:

(i) From hard currency areas: Broad Gauge—138, Metre Gauge—170.

(ii) From soft currency areas: Broad Gauge—52, Metre Gauge—Nil.

(c) No.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Is it a fact that the Canadian engines which have been imported are found to be too heavy for our rails?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: No, Sir.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Is it a fact that some of these locomotives, particularly the broad gauge ones, have given excellent results in the matter of power and speed but that the castings are rather inferior and hence they are showing rapid signs of deterioration?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not know anything very definite about castings but I think what the Honourable Member said in the first part of his question is perfectly right.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: When will India be able to produce her own locomotives?

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

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The first Indian locomotive will be out of our workshop at Chittaranjan at the end of 1950-51.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know how these engines were distributed?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: According to the needs of the different Railways.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is the experience of the service rendered by these engines satisfactory so far?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Perfectly satisfactory, except for small minor defects here and there.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: How does the price of locomotives on the broad gauge compare between the hard currency and the soft currency areas?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I can give the prices in certain hard currency areas and in certain soft currency areas. I have got a whole statement. I can let the Honourable Member have the whole of the statement if he would like to have it.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the maximum speed of the Canadian locomotives?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I would invite the Honourable Member to get on to the foot-plate of one of these engines and see how fast it goes.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I only wanted to know the maximum speed of the Canadian locomotives which the manufacturers have guaranteed.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think the permitted speed is sixty-five miles.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know how many engines were given to M. and S. M. and S. I. Railways?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I should like to have notice of the question.

Shri Raj Bahadur: With reference to the reply given to part (c) of the question may I know how the devaluation has affected the contracts already entered into between our country and the other countries with which we have contracted?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I believe that is the subject-matter of investigation by the Devaluation Committee.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Are there sufficient number of coaches and wagons to make full use of the locomotives that have been bought?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think the capacity of the locomotives is really much greater than the number of wagons and coaches to be drawn that we have at the present moment. They certainly can draw more coaches and wagons if they were available.

COLLAPSE OF REFUGEE QUARTERS

*424. **Shri C. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made into the collapse of the Karol Bagh Refugees Quarters during the last rainy season?

(b) If so, who were the persons who made the enquiry?

(c) What are the findings of the Enquiry Committee?

(d) What is the total estimated loss?

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

(b) The enquiry was made jointly by Shri B. S. Puri, Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department, and Dr. O. H. Koonigsberger, Director of Housing under the Ministry of Health.

(c) A copy of the Press Note issued by the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power, in which the findings of the Enquiry Committee were announced, is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XI, annexure No. 8.)

(d) The total estimated amount for the repairs to be carried out by the Government is about Rs. 9,000, and this will be met from within the normal maintenance grant. As regards the damage due to sub-standard work for which contractors were responsible, the cost of repair and reconstruction will be borne by the contractors concerned, payment of whose final bills have been withheld.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Was not the Chief Engineer himself responsible for the design and the estimate?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Undoubtedly he is, along with several others.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Then why was he put on the Enquiry Committee?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: For the simple reason that a technical man was required.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any penalty was imposed on the contractor for the defective work carried out?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is under consideration. In the first place the step that was taken immediately on the submission of this Report was to withhold the final bill. They have been asked to make good the damages. After that is done the question of imposing a penalty will certainly be taken into consideration.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether the structures that were built were according to the specifications and whether the Chief Engineer himself passed those structures?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No, the Chief Engineer is not directly responsible for the construction because there is a special wing of the Rehabilitation Ministry concerned with this. Certain defects by way of sub-standard constructions were brought to the notice of the authorities. But in spite of that, probably on account of some fraud or negligence, it was still done and those officers who were found to be negligent are being taken departmental action against.

Shri C. Subramaniam: May I know whether no other person with the necessary technical qualification was available to make this enquiry?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Not that. But it was found that inasmuch as the thing required to be done quickly it was thought better to put him on the Committee. And that was done without incurring any extra cost.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: According to the final bill, may I know what amount is yet to be paid to the contractors?

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

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: If a person responsible for the crime put on the Committee may I know whether the enquiry will be impartial?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know whether any Engineer of the P.W.D. was in charge of the supervision of this work and if so whether he has been punished for the negligence?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As I have already stated, there is a Superintending Engineer allotted to the Rehabilitation Ministry. He is in charge of the work done on behalf of the Rehabilitation Ministry, including the construction of houses for refugees. The immediate Executive Engineer and the Sub-Divisional Officer who were responsible for slack of supervision are being proceeded against.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that this is not the first occasion when houses built under the supervision of the C.P.W.D. have been found defective? There were a large number of quarters built by the C.P.W.D. for the Delhi Improvement Trust, for the clerks, in Model Basti and the amount spent on repairs to them is more than the income fetched through rent.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am not aware of this, but I shall make enquiries.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: In view of the reply given that the Chief Engineer is ultimately responsible and that he was also put on the Enquiry Committee, may I know what steps Government have taken to see that his opinion as given in this Enquiry Committee is impartial?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The findings of this Committee as recorded in the Press Note are so impartial that I am sure the Honourable Member himself will accept them. The causes of the damage as stated by them are:

- (i) Construction of the buildings on filled in ground and adoption, in the interests of speed, cheapness and economy in building materials, of specifications representing a minimum in structural strength and comfort;
- (ii) The abnormal rainfall on the 20th and 21st July, 1949, and the inability of the drainage system to drain the large flow of water which was unprecedented;
- (iii) Delay in completion of the work (particularly sullage and storm water drainage works), before the rains started in July, 1949, due to forcible occupation of about 700 quarters by displaced persons;
- (iv) Defective design of the junctions between the sloping roofs of the main houses, and the roofs of the outhouses;
- (v) Sub-standard construction work, not conforming to prescribed specifications, in respect of cement pointing of outside walls and in flooring of some houses.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that instead of cement, more sand was used and the cement was sold in the black-market?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is possible. Some such thing might have been done. But to the extent it was possible to find out sub-standard construction, as I have stated, the officers are being proceeded against.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether any houses in the surrounding locality also collapsed on account of the heavy rains referred to in the said report?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Not in the surrounding area because there were no houses there. But in Old Delhi several houses collapsed, as also

in New Delhi—houses constructed by Government on similar specifications, which were war specifications, six years ago.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Were they all new houses?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The question of my Honourable friend was whether on account of the heavy rain other houses collapsed similarly. Heavy rain makes little difference between old and new houses.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

*425. **Shri C. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House regarding the work so far done by the Damodar Valley Corporation?

(b) Were any targets of work fixed by the Damodar Valley Corporation and if so, were the targets reached within the time fixed?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) A note giving the up-to-date progress of the work done by the Damodar Valley Corporation is laid on the Table of the House [*Copy placed in the Library. See No. IV.M.4(2)/II*]. Copies of the monthly progress reports of the Corporation are also placed in the Library of the House for the information of the Honourable Members.

(b) The important targets in a multiple-purpose project are seldom immediately realisable. The Damodar Valley Corporation is certainly trying to keep up to its schedule of work; but whether or not its construction programme will be strictly adhered to depends to a large extent on the availability of foreign exchange and other factors.

M. L. A. QUARTERS

*426. **Sardar Hukam Singh:**
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether, from March 1949 to the first week of October 1949, charges were made for flower beds in M.L.A. quarters at the rate of Rs. 2/8/- per month?

(b) Are Government aware that flower seeds have never been put in the beds for the last seven months?

(c) If so, do Government propose to consider the advisability of refunding the money charged to the Honourable Members?

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

(b) Flowers are not planted in these beds during summer, but only in winter.

(c) No. The charges levied cover only the expenditure for the six months' service, though recovery is spread over 12 monthly instalments.

GROWING OF FOOD IN THE COMPOUNDS OF M. L. A. QUARTERS

*427. **Sardar Hukam Singh:**
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state how far the 'Grow More Food Campaign' has been pursued in the grounds of M.L.A. Quarters?

(b) Will the open space in M.L.A. Quarters be utilised for the purpose and if so, when and how?

(c) Has it been utilised so far in any case?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) to (c). The open courtyards in the M.L.A. Pungalows can be utilised for growing vegetables and other food crops, and it is understood that some tenants have in fact used them for this purpose. It is, however, for the tenants themselves to take the initiative in the matter, although Central Public Works Department will render all possible assistance. A copy of Government orders on the subject is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XI, annexure No. 9.)

SUGAR INDUSTRY (PROTECTION)

***428. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state when the protective duty on sugar was imposed?

(b) What is the total amount of money which the consumer has to pay as a result of the imposition of protective duties over and above what he would have paid if no protective duty had been imposed on sugar?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This question pertains to the Ministry of Commerce, and will be answered by the Honourable Minister for Commerce on the day allotted.

RATIONING OF ACCOMMODATION

***429. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether in view of acute housing difficulty in Delhi the question of rationing of accommodation has been taken up by Government?

(b) If so, when do Government propose to announce and enforce the decision?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The question of rationing of accommodation in Delhi has been considered and discarded, as an impracticable proposition.

(b) Does not arise.

IMPORTED TRACTORS

***430. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have permitted the Bombay Government to import some 23 tractors;

(b) whether the tractors so imported were new or reconditioned;

(c) the firm through which the Bombay Government placed the order;

(d) the steps, taken to ascertain that the price offered was fair;

(e) whether it is a fact that complaints have been made to the effect that the Bombay Government were cheated by the firm who supplied these tractors;

(f) the date on which the order was placed;

(g) whether the tractors have arrived and if so, what was the total cost incurred by the Bombay Government; and

(h) when the payment was made?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Government of Bombay had asked Messrs. J. N. Marshall Company to import 16 tractors for them. At the request of the Bombay Government the Ministry of Agriculture recommended to the Chief Controller of Imports the grant of an import license for the tractors required by the Provincial Government.

(b) The tractors were reconditioned tractors.

(c) The Bombay Government placed the order through Messrs. J. N. Marshall Company, Bombay.

(d) The Government of Bombay have informed us that the prices quoted by the firm for the tractors were considered reasonable by them and were agreed to by them.

(e) No complaint has been brought to the notice of Government.

(f) Order for twelve tractors was placed on the 28th April, 1949, and for four on the 30th April, 1949.

(g) Yes; the total cost of the tractors comes to about Rs. 6,70,000.

(h) An amount of Rs. 6,19,000 was paid to the firm in July, August and September, 1949.

TRACTORS (PURCHASE AND MANUFACTURE)

***431. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken for the manufacture of tractors in India;

(b) what is the amount of loan taken from the World Bank for the purchase of tractors;

(c) the number of tractors purchased out of this loan and the date by which they are expected to arrive in India;

(d) the names of the manufacturers, the horse power of each tractor, and the number of units and cost per unit of these tractors; and

(e) through what channel the purchases have been made?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes. The matter is being dealt with in the Ministry of Industry and Supply.

(b) Ten million dollars.

(c) The total number of tractors to be purchased out of the Bank Loan is 375. Orders for 180 tractors have already been placed and all of these are expected to reach India by February, 1950. Orders for the balance of 195 tractors will be placed shortly and these are expected to be received between August and October, 1950.

(d) A statement showing the required information in respect of 180 tractors for which orders have already been placed is laid on the Table.

(e) The indents were placed on the Director-General of Industries and Supplies who in turn placed orders on the Indian Agents of the manufacturers concerned.

STATEMENT

Names of Manufacturers, Horse Power and Number of Units and Cost Per Unit of 180 Tractors Ordered with the help of the Loan from the World Bank.

Description of Tractors	Number	Name of manufacturers	Horse Power at the Draw Bar	Cost per tractor at which purchased (Rs.)
Allis Chalmers, Model HD-19.	90	Allis Chalmers Manufacturing Co., Springfield, Illinois, U.S.A.	125 approx.	73,500
Cletrac, Model FDE.	90	Oliver Corporation, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.	110	60,000

SCARCITY OF SUGAR

***432. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the reasons for the widespread and intense scarcity of sugar in India;

(b) whether Government are aware that this has led to great suffering and hardship to the people of India; and

(c) whether Government have considered the matter, and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Yes. The crux of the problem is increased production of sugar and towards this end, the Government of India are taking all possible measures.

PRINTING OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

***433. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Official Publications printed at the Government of India Printing Presses during each of the past three years;

(b) the number of Official Publications of the Government of India printed at private presses during the same period;

(c) whether the policy of Government favours printing of all publications at Government's own press; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure the implementation of this policy?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) 1946-47—4,031. 1947-48—4,011. 1948-49—3,467.

(b) 1946-47—650. 1947-48—339. 1948-49—319.

(c) Yes.

(d) To attain self-sufficiency in the matter of printing of Government work, it is under the active consideration of Government to expand the existing presses

and/or set up one or two new Presses with modern machinery. To achieve the end in view, an Expert Committee on printing was set up over six months ago to examine the existing machinery in the Presses and their methods of work and to make recommendations for improvement. The Committee have almost completed their deliberations and their report is expected shortly.

REGROUPING OF RAILWAYS

***434. Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that railways are being regrouped so as to have six railway regions for the whole of India?

(b) What is the proposed mileage for each railway region?

(c) What will be the type or nature of administration proposed? Will it be departmental or divisional system?

(d) If it be divisional system of administration, into how many divisions the southern group will be divided?

(e) Where will the headquarters be and where will the workshop be located?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The regrouping of railways into a smaller number of administrative units than now is contemplated.

(b) to (e). The whole question is under consideration and no final decisions have as yet been taken.

SERVICE COMMISSIONS (RAILWAYS)

***435. Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of Service Commissions set up for all the railways in India?

(b) What is the annual expenditure incurred thereby every year?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Four.

(b) 1947-48—Rs. 7,52,921-2-9. 1948-49—Rs. 7,53,826-3-9.

RAILWAY REFUGEE CONTRACTORS (CLAIMS)

***436. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made so far in connection with railway refugee contractor's claims for payment in connection with works executed during the pre-partition period;

(b) whether it is a fact that not a single refugee contractor has so far been paid for work done by him on the North Western Railway during the pre-partition period;

(c) whether Government propose to arrange for the scrutiny and payment of such claims made by refugee contractors; and

(d) if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Out of 1,362 pre-partition claims for Rs. 77,28,954 registered by Refugee Contractors for work done on both Ex. B.A. and Ex. N.W. Railways, 338 for Rs. 10,12,779 have been settled.

(b) No. Twenty-six claims worth Rs. 41,498 have been settled against 829 claims for Rs. 61,28,954 registered for work done on Ex. N.W. Railway.

(c) Yes. The machinery set up for this purpose is at work.

(d) Does not arise.

APPLICATION OF CERTAIN ACTS TO AJMER-MERWARA

***437. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bombay Money Lenders Act and the Bombay Agricultural Indebtedness Relief Act have been applied with suitable modifications to the Province of Ajmer-Merwara, if so, from which date;

(b) whether it is a fact that notwithstanding the extension of these measures to the Province no steps have been taken so far to enforce the provisions thereof in the Province; if so, the reasons for this delay; and

(c) by which date it is expected to enforce the provisions of these Acts in the Province?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes, the Bombay Money Lenders Act and the Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act were extended to Ajmer-Merwara with suitable modifications on 9th November, 1948 and 5th July, 1949, respectively.

(b) Arrangements for enforcing the provisions of the Acts have been delayed because the proposals for appointment of staff had to be revised in view of financial stringency.

(c) As soon as financial provision can be made.

HALDIBARI-SILIGURI LINE (RAILWAYS)

***438. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Haldibari-Siliguri Section of Indian Railways in North-West Bengal is being administered by the Government of Pakistan;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Government is charging seven annas per rupee extra from the passengers travelling over this Section since the Rupee devaluation; and

(c) if so, what steps the Government of India have taken or intend to take in the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Yes; this section of line is worked by the E.B. (Pakistan) Railway.

(b) Government have received complaints to this effect.

(c) As regards refund of surcharges on fares and freights collected for that portion of the journeys performed on Indian worked railways, representations have already been made to the Pakistan Government and the matter will, if necessary, be pursued at Inter-Dominion Railway Conferences.

COLLISIONS AND ACCIDENTS ON THE RAILWAYS

***439. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains that have been introduced and the lines on which they are running and the result of the punctuality drive in the running of trains;

(b) the number of collisions and accidents by derailment and otherwise that have taken place on the different Railways during the current financial year and how these figures compare with the figures for last year; and

(c) the main causes for such collisions and accidents and the loss of property and life resulting therefrom?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) A statement showing the number of new trains as such introduced and of existing trains extended on each of the Indian Government Railways during the current financial year is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XI, annexure No. 10.)

Another statement showing the monthly percentages of trains not losing time is also placed on the Table. (See Appendix XI, annexure No. 11.)

It will be observed that there has been a considerable improvement in the punctual running of trains.

(b) The number of serious accidents to Passenger and Mixed trains involving loss of life or serious injury is six during the current financial year up to date. During the corresponding period of 1948-49, thirteen serious accidents had occurred.

(c) Of the six accidents this year, four were due to malicious tampering with the track by some person or persons unknown and one to faulty working on the part of station staff. In the sixth case, the cause could not be determined with certainty.

The approximate cost of damage to engine, rolling stock and permanent way, resulting from these accidents, amounted to Rs. 2,55,000. Loss of life was fifteen.

JUTE

***440. Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage under jute cultivation in the years 1948-49 and 1949-50 and the quantity of jute produced in the Indian Union in the year 1948-49;

(b) the additional acreage that has been brought under cultivation in the year 1949-50—state and province-wise; and

(c) what are the jute substitutes which are being experimented with?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). A statement for the years 1947-48 and 1948-49 showing the acreage and crop of jute in each area is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XI, annexure No. 12.)

The area under jute in 1949-50 is at present being surveyed by special field parties detailed for this purpose, and the figures are not yet available.

(c) The possibilities of growing fibre plants like mesta, Roselle, *Urena lobata* in areas where jute cannot be grown, with a view to their use as substitutes for or in admixture with jute are being explored. Experiments are also being conducted with linseed fibres which mix well with jute. Mesta is the best known amongst these substitutes, and a scheme for increasing its production is under consideration.

DAMODAR VALLEY PROJECT

***441. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state why navigation has not been provided in the lower Damodar and what action is being taken for the control of malaria in that area?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Navigation will be provided for the lower Damodar Valley by a navigation canal. Malaria control is one of the main functions of the Damodar Valley Corporation. A malaria survey has been completed and other measures will follow as and when necessary.

CANAL WATERS (DISTRIBUTION)

***442. Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state the terms of the agreement between India and Pakistan with regard to the distribution of canal waters?

(b) Had the Government of Pakistan agreed to pay India any royalty on the volume of water they used from our resources?

(c) If so, what have they paid India so far?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) A copy of the Inter-Dominion Agreement dated 4th May, 1948 on the Canal Water Dispute between East and West Punjab is placed on the Table of the House. The undisputed sums referred to in paragraph 5 of the Agreement comprise current maintenance charges, interest on the adjusted capital cost of works relating to the Dipalpur Canal and half the interest on the adjusted capital cost of works leading to the Central Bari Doab Canal. The disputed amounts comprise the other half of the interest on account of the Central Bari Doab Canal and the seigniorage charges on account of both canals.

(b) Reference is invited to paragraphs 2 and 5 of the Agreement. The seigniorage charges are being deposited for the present with the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) To end of September, 1949, the Government of West Punjab have paid to East Punjab a sum of Rs. 70,08,775 as undisputed charges and have also deposited a sum of Rs. 21,25,207 with the Reserve Bank of India, as amount in dispute, pending resolution of the dispute.

Inter-Dominion Agreement, dated the 4th May, 1948, on the Canal Water dispute between the East and West Punjab

A dispute has arisen between the East and West Punjab Governments regarding the supply by East Punjab of water to the Central Bari Doab and the Depalpur canals in West Punjab. The contention of the East Punjab Government is that under the Punjab Partition (Apportionment of Assets and Liabilities) Order, 1947, and the Arbitral Award the proprietary rights in the waters of the rivers in East Punjab vest wholly in the East Punjab Government and that the West Punjab Government cannot claim any share of these waters as a right. The West Punjab Government disputes this contention, its view being that the point has conclusively been decided in its favour by implication by the Arbitral Award and that in accordance with international law and equity, West Punjab has a right to the waters of the East Punjab rivers.

(2) The East Punjab Government has revived the flow of water into these canals on certain conditions of which two are disputed by West Punjab. One, which arises out of the contention in paragraph 1, is the right to the levy of seigniorage charges for water and the other is the question of the capital cost of the Madhopur Head Works and carrier channels to be taken into account.

(3) The East and West Punjab Governments are anxious that this question should be settled in a spirit of goodwill and friendship. Without prejudice to its legal rights in the matter the East Punjab Government has assured the West Punjab Government that it has no intention suddenly to withhold water from West Punjab without giving it time to tap alternative sources. The West Punjab Government on its part recognises the natural anxiety of the East Punjab Government to discharge the obligations to develop areas where water is scarce and which were under-developed in relation to parts of West Punjab.

(4) Apart, therefore, from the question of law involved, the Governments are anxious to approach the problem in a practical spirit on the basis of the East Punjab Government progressively diminishing its supply to these canals in order to give reasonable time to enable the West Punjab Government to tap alternative sources.

(5) The West Punjab Government has agreed to deposit immediately in the Reserve Bank such *ad hoc* sum as may be specified by the Prime Minister of India. Out of this sum, that Government agrees to the immediate transfer to East Punjab Government of sums over which there is no dispute.

(6) After an examination by each party of the legal issues, of the method of estimating the cost of water to be supplied by the East Punjab Government and of the technical

survey of water resources and the means of using them for supply to these canals, the two Governments agree that further meetings between their representatives should take place

(7) The Dominion Governments of India and Pakistan accept the above terms and express the hope that a friendly solution will be reached.

Jawaharlal Nehru.
Swaran Singh.
N. V. Gadgil.

Ghulam Mohd.
Shaukat Hyat Khan.
Mumtaz Daultana.

NEW DELHI, 1
May 4, 1948.

TARGET OF FOOD PRODUCTION

***443. Shri Upendranath Barman:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the provincial overall target for five years and planned target for 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50, of increased food production decided in Provincial Ministers' Conference early in 1947?

(b) Which are the Provinces and States which have carried out the same and to what extent?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The overall provincial target fixed at the Food Production Conference held in January, 1947 was 3.6 million tons. This was before the partition, and the target was modified to 3 million tons after the partition. A statement showing planned targets for Provinces during 1947-48 and 1948-49 under the modified 5 year plan referred to above is placed on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix XI, annexure No. 13.*) Another statement showing the Provincial targets for 1949-50 under the present self-sufficiency plan is also placed on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix XI, annexure No. 14.*)

(b) As States were not eligible for financial assistance under the original 5 year plan of Food Production, no figures of extra production are available from the States. The actual extra production reported by Provinces to have been achieved in 1947-48 and 1948-49 is shown in a statement placed on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix XI, annexure No. 15.*)

The figures of extra production achieved during the first six months of 1949-50 will not be available until January, 1950 when the first six monthly reports will be received from Provinces and States.

The total overall target of additional production for 1947-48 was 9.09 lakh tons against which the actual extra production reported was 6.72 lakh tons, giving a performance percentage of 73.9. Similarly, in respect of 1948-49, as against a target of 8.86 lakh tons for that particular year, the extra production was 7.27 lakh tons, which shows the achievement to be 82.1 per cent. of the target aimed at.

IMPORT OF WHEAT (PRICE)

***444. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Australia have been trying to increase the export price of wheat fixed under the International Wheat Agreement;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the grounds urged by Australia for such increase;

(c) whether the Government of India have lodged any protest against Australia's effort to increase the export price of wheat; and

(d) if so, what has been the result?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) Prices of wheat under the International Wheat Agreement are fixed in terms of Canadian currency at the parity for the Canadian dollar determined for the purposes of the International Monetary Fund as at March 1st, 1949. It has been urged that under this provision of the Agreement the price of wheat in terms of U.S. currency will remain unchanged; in terms of Canadian currency it will go up by ten per cent. and in terms of Australian currency by 44 per cent. in accordance with the changes in the gold parities of Canadian and Australian currencies. In terms of rupees, the increase in the prices of wheat under the Agreement works out to 44 per cent. from all sources.

(c) and (d). The matter is under negotiation and I hope Honourable Member will not wish me to say more than that we are trying to obtain the best terms practicable.

CORRUPTION (C. P. W. D.)

***445. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the number of cases relating to corruption, fraud and bribery brought to his notice during the years 1948 and 1949?

(b) How many of them were sent to the court and how many of them were convicted?

(c) Against how many did the Government take departmental action?

(d) Do these malpractices show a decrease or an increase in the crimes in the Central Public Works Department?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Seventy-six.

(b) Sixteen. Nine have been decided and six officials have been convicted.

(c) Twenty-eight. In addition, thirty-two cases are being investigated either departmentally or through Special Police Establishment.

(d) Most of the cases aforesaid are in connection with the irregularities committed during the war years. Very few cases have come to notice during the last two years. It can be stated that the number of cases of corruption and fraud in the Central Public Works Department is decreasing and the general tone of the department is definitely improving.

STADIUMS AND CINEMA HOUSES

***446. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a sports stadium is proposed to be built in Delhi?

(b) If so, what is its estimated cost?

(c) Is it a fact that the country is short of building materials?

(d) If so, what is the policy of Government regarding such structures as stadiums and cinema houses?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes. There is a proposal for the construction of a stadium in Delhi, known as "The Nehru Stadium and Park", by the National Sports Club of India.

(b) The Government of India have no information regarding the estimated cost of the stadium.

(c) Yes. There is a general shortage of building materials, particularly cement and steel.

(d) The policy of Government is to discourage all non-essential and luxury constructions, including cinema houses. Sports stadiums, if not luxuriously designed and intended to foster national health and well-being, however, stand on a different footing from cinema houses.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

***447. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report from Lake Success which appeared in the *Hindu*, dated the 20th April 1949, at page 5 thereof, regarding the efforts of a representative of the Damodar Valley Corporation to raise a huge loan in the United States of America; and

(b) if so, whether the report is correct?

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

(b) A representative of the Damodar Valley Corporation did make certain enquiries of a preliminary nature in the United States of America. But when the matter was referred to the Government of India, it was decided that these enquiries should not be pursued further as they might jeopardise the loan application already submitted by the Government of India to the International Bank.

KANDLA PORT

***448. Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state what stage the Kandla Development scheme has reached, with particular reference to the construction of Railways connecting Kandla with the main Railway systems of India?

(b) How far and in what manner does the present financial stringency affect the scheme or any part thereof?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Attention is invited to the answer given to part (a) of starred question No. 274 on the 5th December, 1949. The B.B. & C.I. Railway carried out traffic and engineering surveys for a railway line connecting Kandla with Deesa on the Palanpur-Dessa Metre Gauge line of the B.B. & C.I. Railway and with Raniwara on the Jodhpur Railway. It is proposed to construct the line between Kandla and Deesa in the first instance. Earthwork on certain sections of the line is already in hand as a famine relief measure.

(b) In view of its importance, the Government of India, have, in spite of the financial stringency, included a provision of Rs. 1 crore for expenditure on the scheme in the budget for 1950-51.

RAILWAYS OR ROADS LINKS OF CATCH PORTS

***449. Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state what steps are being taken to develop and utilise the other ports of Cutch by constructing appropriate connecting railways or roads from the ports to the interior?

(b) What grants have been made to supplement the finances of the Chief Commissioner's province of Cutch during 1948-49, and budgeted for during the

current year (1949-50) with special reference to building of roads and railways or irrigation works to guard against the frequent threat of famine in Cutch?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister for States and has been transferred to the Ministry of States.

NEW HOUSES (LODI COLONY)

***450. Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constructed new houses for officers in Lodi Colony;

(b) whether it is a fact that construction of these houses was completed a few months back with the exception of minor sanitary fittings;

(c) whether it is a fact that some officers had preferred to occupy these houses pending installation of those sanitary fittings; and

(d) when these houses are expected to be ready for occupation by officers?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (d). A statement showing the houses now under construction near about Lodi Road, and the dates by which the houses are expected to be ready for occupation, is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XI, annexure No. 16.)

(b) No.

(c) No.

ALLOTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

***451. Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) since when the allotment of quarters in Delhi has been held up due to the contemplated revision of allotment rules; and

(b) when the revised rules are likely to be issued and the reasons for the delay in their issue?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Allotment of quarters in Delhi has not been held up at any time. Only the submission of the usual six-monthly applications to the Estate Officer was stopped in February, 1949, pending revision of rules for allotment and forms of applications. Allotment of quarters however continue on the basis of existing rules and applications received by the Estate Officer.

(b) The revised rules are likely to be issued during this month. The consideration of objections and suggestions, in consultation with the Ministries concerned was primarily responsible for the delay which was unavoidable.

INDIAN RAILWAY ENQUIRY COMMITTEE, 1947

***452. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the action taken by Government on the recommendation of the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee, 1947, at page 171 of their Report in regard to the major part of the personnel work being decentralised and made over to the Divisional Officers as far as the Eastern Punjab Railway is concerned?

(b) What is the number of personnel officers working on each division of the Eastern Punjab Railway on 1st August, 1947 and on 1st November, 1949?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The recommendations of the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee, 1947, contained in para. 194 of their Report in regard to the question of decentralisation of personnel work have been under the consideration of Government in consultation with the Railways but no decision has yet been reached. In view, however, of the decision to re-group the railways, this question will need further examination.

(b) On the partition of the N.W.R. and the formation of the E.P. Railway on 16th August, 1947, there were two Personnel Officers on each of the two divisions on the E.P. Railway, viz., Delhi and Ferozepur. On 1st November, 1949, there were three Personnel Officers on each of the two Divisions.

RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

***453. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the functions of the Advisory Committee?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Railway Local Advisory Committees. The functions of these Committees are to advise Railways in connection with matters relating to the provision of amenities to the public, proposals in regard to new projects and extensions, the opening of new stations and halts, arrangements regarding time-tables and reservation of accommodation on trains and any subject of general public interest or convenience peculiar to the area with which a Committee is concerned.

LINKING OF RAILWAYS ON E. P. R.

***454. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have got any scheme to link the railway station Khem-Karan with Ganda Singh Wala, and Chaman Wala with Hindu-Mul-Kot on the Eastern Punjab Railway, so as to complete the Western Railway defence line along with the boundary of Pakistan?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how much time will it take to complete the execution of the scheme?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) No.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a), the question does not arise.

(c) The lines are not considered necessary.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RAILWAY INCOME (AS AFFECTED BY RECLASSIFICATION)

9. Shri O. Subramaniam: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers who travelled during the three quarters ended 30th September, 1949 by (i) class three, (ii) class two, and (iii) class one and the corresponding earnings of the Railways under each head;

- (b) the number of passengers who travelled during the corresponding periods in the preceeding year by (i) third class, (ii) intermediate class, (iii) second class and (iv) first class and the corresponding earnings under each head; and
(c) how the reclassification has affected the earnings of the Railways?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix IX, annexure No. 17.)

(c) The reclassification has not affected the earnings of the Railways to any appreciable extent.

RESIDENTIAL AND OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

10. { **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:**
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Government residential quarters in Delhi was 6,472 in 1938-39 and whether it has increased now to 15,404 in 1948-49;

(b) whether it is a fact that the office accommodation in 1938-39 was only 7,57,000 sq. feet and whether it is 56,34,000 sq. feet in 1948;

(c) the causes for the increase; and

(d) what is the number of Government employees that have increased year by year from 1939 to 1949?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No. The number of Government residential quarters in Delhi in 1939 was 5,469, which has increased to 13,547 in 1948.

(b) No. The office accommodation in Delhi in 1939 was 7,41,274 sq. feet while it was 27,25,424 sq. feet in 1948.

(c) The increase is due to increase in demands for accommodation as a result of expansion of the work and activities of the Government of India, more especially because of problems created by the war and on account of the establishment of foreign Missions, diplomatic and otherwise in Delhi.

(d) The information is not readily available, and for an accurate figure the question would have to be addressed to the Honourable Minister for Home Affairs. The number of applications received by the Estate Officer for allotment of accommodation in 1939 and 1948 in Delhi and Simla which gives some indication of this increase are as follows:

	1939	1949
Delhi	75,92	65,587
Simla	25,20	3,338
Total	10,112	68,925

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Friday, 9th December, 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

IMPORT OF POTATOES

*455. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government imported certain quantity of potatoes from Italy recently?

(b) If so, what was the quantity and at what rate was the order booked and what was the landing cost at Bombay?

(c) Is it a fact that a large quantity deteriorated before landing and if so, what was the quantity?

(d) What was the cause of damage and were the goods insured against such damage?

(e) On whose account were these goods imported and is the amount recoverable from the provinces?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No potatoes were imported on Government account.

In view of my answer to part (a) I take it the Honourable Member will not expect me to answer (b), (c), (d) and (e).

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Can the Honourable Minister enlighten the House whether any potatoes were imported by commercial firms?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, there has been some amount of importation of potatoes on commercial account.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the attention of the Government of India was drawn by the Bombay Government as regards the questions which I have raised in parts (c) and (d)?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: No. As a matter of fact, that would not affect the Commerce Ministry. If any reference had been made by the Government of Bombay it must have been made to the Food Ministry.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know why the import of potatoes was permitted when there were enough potatoes in the country?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: My honourable friend's assumption may not be quite correct, because I find that even from the pre-war years there has been considerable importation of potatoes. Every year there has been quite a considerable amount of potatoes imported, particularly for the benefit of Bombay Province and certain neighbouring areas.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: May I know what is the quantity of potatoes imported from abroad?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: During the year 1948-49 the potatoes imported were worth Rs. 54,77,367.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: Are Government aware that potatoes from Italy are brought in ships as ballast and sold at Bombay which is detrimental to the marketing of potatoes produced in this country?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have no information on that point.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: What are the different countries from which potatoes are imported?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Mainly from Italy.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether any potatoes were imported from Nepal?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am not aware of any such importation.

Shri S. Nagappa: Will Government consider the desirability of importing them from Nepal as Nepal is nearer to us than Italy?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: This is primarily a matter for the Food Ministry. As a matter of fact, if potatoes are available in Nepal there is no reason why we should not import them from there. There is no bar to that.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Is there any increase in the production of potatoes in this country since the Government started the Grow More Food Campaign?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have given the import figure for this particular year, but on a reference to the previous years I find that the quantities were not so much in the two previous years. So far, however, as the particular point raised by the Honourable Member is concerned, he may as well address the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: May I know whether it is seed potatoes or edible potatoes which are imported?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Both.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it the policy to ban the import of potatoes in future?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: No. That is not the present intention.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: May I know whether Government have received any representation from the growers and merchants of the Madras Province to ban the importation of potato from Italy?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am not aware of any such representations, but they might have been addressed to the Food Ministry.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Are Government taking any steps to make the country self-sufficient in potatoes?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid that is a question which should be addressed to my honourable colleague the Minister for Agriculture.

Shri Sri Narayan Mahtha: May I know what steps Government are taking for the refrigeration and cold storage of potatoes?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That again is not a matter in which I am primarily concerned.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Is it a fact that there has been a progressive decrease in the quantity of imports from year to year?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not that I know of, because the figure that I have given is pretty large and the figures for the immediately two preceding years were lower than that.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if there is any plan according to which articles and commodities are to be imported in future?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That raises too general a question. But undoubtedly all our imports and exports are controlled to varying degrees.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether the shortage in potatoes has occurred only after Independence or whether it was existing before Independence also?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: In pre-war years the importation was very heavy.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Can he give the actual quantity imported before Independence?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Possibly he would like to have notice for that.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Sir, I wish only to point out that I addressed this question to the Food Minister and the office has changed it to the Commerce Minister. This complication has arisen out of that and the information is not available.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It was under instructions from the Ministry that it was done. But in regard to whatever has been left over, the Honourable Member may kindly put a question to the Food Minister.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Now?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not now, later on.

STEEL FACTORIES

*456. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government have taken final action regarding the location of two-plant scheme steel construction factories?

(b) If so, which places have been decided and what will be the cost of each plant?

(c) Is it contemplated to give contracts for the construction of the factories and if so, have any tenders been invited?

(d) Do Government intend to place any orders in India?

(e) If so, what are the names of the firms and what is the amount of each contract?

(f) Will this scheme be affected by the drive for retrenchment in Capital Goods?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a), (b) and (f). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to parts (c), (h) and (i) of Starred Question No. 358 on the 6th December, 1949.

(c), (d) and (e). These matters are still under consideration.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether Government are negotiating with a Calcutta firm for the purpose of construction of the refractory in this connection at a cost of nearly Rs. 2 crores?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I said, Sir, the matter is under consideration.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: My question was whether Government are negotiating with any Calcutta firm for the two crore refractory plant to be put up for this steel factory, for manufacturing bricks.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have not yet decided when the steel factory will come into existence.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They have not even decided about the erection of the steel plant.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: May I know, Sir, what any Calcutta firm has got to do with this?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Buildings are necessary for the factory and the Honourable Member was putting a question on that point. I would suggest to the Honourable Member that when particular matters are under negotiation, to take up one item and ask questions. I do not think it is right or it will be in the public interest to ask whether individual concerns have been given any contract and so on before the negotiations themselves are finalised. It may stand in the way of the negotiations being completed.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I wanted to know whether Government have abandoned the idea of erecting these two steel plants, whether they intend to give the work to a foreign firm or whether Government have changed their plan and want to give it to some other firm.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the steel plant is concerned, as I answered the other day, it will cost us about Rs. 90 crores per plant, which means about Rs. 180 crores if both the steel plants are established. Naturally this is a matter which has to be very seriously considered by Government in view of the present financial position. We have not considered any other aspect of the matter.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know if steel factories are regarded as key industries and if so has the Honourable Minister been able to secure the highest possible priority for the establishment of these factories?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The main difficulty involved is the key to finance.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that Government have already decided to set up a steel plant in the Central Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have decided that the two steel plants should be located in C.P. and Orissa and we have given C.P. the first preference. But it all depends as to when the plant will come into existence.

Shri S. Nagappa: When these two plants are brought into existence will they meet the entire demand of the country or reduce the percentage of imports into this country? If so, by how much?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It will not completely meet the demands of the country.

Shri S. Nagappa: To what extent will it reduce imports?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If the plant produces one million tons, imports will be reduced considerably.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the producing capacity of these two steel plants and what will be the amount to be invested on them, compared with the capacity and investment of the Tatas and the Bengal Steel Corporation?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: For the time being it appears the whole scheme has been suspended.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Sir, the scheme has been approved of, the question is one of finance. I want to know whether the outlay and the producing capacity will be comparable to the existing plants.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Obviously, so far as the costs of plant and machinery go, they will be much more than what the existing factories had spent. As I have already stated, one factory producing 500,000 tons will cost us in all about Rs. 90 crores which is the figure after devaluation.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What will be the amounts which the existing companies have invested?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That I can't say off-hand.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable Minister has not got comparative figures.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any amount has been spent for the preliminary work, and if so how much?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have only paid for the reports of the consulting experts which has cost us in all about Rs. 4 lakhs.

Shri B. Das: May I know if the Orissa and C.P. plants are on the same priority level or one would get preference over the other?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The priority is No. 1 and No. 2; No. 1 for C.P. and No. 2 for Orissa.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know if the Honourable Minister is satisfied with the difficulties of finance or is he agitating to give priority to these factories?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe there the Government will be guided mainly by the wishes of the House.

DISPOSALS

*457. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total amount of articles disposed of from the Disposals from 1st January, 1949 to the end of October 1949?

(b) How many articles are still to be disposed of?

(c) Is it a fact that a Committee was appointed in February 1948 to enquire into the matter and devise means for effecting quick disposal of the goods and if so, what is the result of that Committee?

(d) When do Government intend to close this Department?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) During this period surplus stores of book-value of Rupees 24.85 crores were sold—as also quantities of salvage and process scrap. The book-value of the salvage stores and process scrap cannot be ascertained. But the sale price realised was Rupees eighty-five lakhs.

(b) Surplus stores of approximate book-value of Rupees 144.7 crores, and 1,20,944 tons of salvage stores and process scrap, of which the book-value cannot be ascertained. It is impossible to give the number of articles.

(c) Yes, a Committee was appointed in February 1948, but not to recommend methods of quick disposal. The Committee was appointed mainly to recommend how the surplus stores could be best utilised in the technical departments of the Central, Provincial and State Departments, in Scientific Laboratories and in Industries.

In this connection I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to Starred Question No. 224 asked by Shri B. Shiva Rao on the 16th August 1948. In that reply I gave a summary of the recommendations made by the Committee and the decisions taken by the Government on those recommendations.

(d) So far as can be foreseen the volume of surplus stores left for disposal will be reduced by 50 per cent. by the end of March 1950 and by 80 per cent. by the end of December 1950. Disposal of the stocks now held can probably be completed by the end of March 1951.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: In the last Budget Session the Honourable Minister stated that by March 1950 he is likely to dispose of all these goods and the Department would be more or less closed. Now he states that it would be March 1951. May I know the reason for the extension of this period by one year?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I didn't say definitely that it will be March 1950, but I did say that by the end of 1950 about 80 per cent. will be liquidated. The main reason for the delay has been that quite a substantial portion of the stores was also withdrawn for Defence purposes which also was a legitimate purpose. Secondly, we have been anxious not to sell the goods quickly but to see that they are properly distributed amongst Government institutions and departments or amongst private industries who may be able to use them in a proper way. For that purpose a scheme is now in operation and I believe work will now proceed more quickly.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable Minister please tell us if there is any scheme to close down this Department altogether and give over the stores to the Provincial Governments who may be even in a better position to see that the stores don't deteriorate as they are just now?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There are so many assumptions in the question. So far as the scheme for closing down the Department is concerned, Government has a very definite scheme: as soon as the stores are sold out the Department will be closed down. So far as distribution amongst the Provincial Governments is concerned, we are now circularising all the Provincial Governments and asking them to take whatever they want for their own purposes. We are also placing these stores at their disposal at concession rates. We have extended that not only to Provincial Governments but also to institutions of national importance which are doing educational or scientific work.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Considering that development grants have been reduced in Provinces, would it not be better if the Government of India were to make over these stores free of charge to the Provincial Governments who will be able to see that the stores are actually utilised?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a suggestion for action.

Shri B. L. Sondhi: Is it not a fact that we are spending about Rs. 12 lakhs a month on this Disposals Department?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the establishment is concerned, the total expenditure this year till October is Rs. 1,10,56,131. In 1946-47 it was Rs. 3,30,99,000. During the last three years the expenses have gone down by nearly about Rs. 1,50,00,000. Last year the expenses were Rs. 1,86,40,000. As I said, this year up to October it will be Rs. 1,10,00,000, which means a portion of the staff has been retrenched.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: I would like to know whether there are adequate arrangements for the storage of these disposal goods pending their removal, or are they lying outside in the open?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In some places the arrangements are not adequate, it is true, but we are trying to look after them as much as possible.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: How do the auction prices compare with the book value?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I can give some figures. For instance, from October 1944 to end of October 1949—the five years during which the stocks have been with us—the book value of the British and Indian surplus stores sold was Rs. 171,66,00,000 and the book value of American stores sold was approximately Rs. 170 crores. The total sale price realised has been Rs. 127,50,00,000.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: What is the estimated price of the goods which are yet to be disposed of?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The present holdings will be; British and Indian goods Rs. 76 crores, American goods Rs. 26.32 crores and American goods held by Tata aircraft Rs. 41.89 crores.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Disposals Committee has made a report that a large quantity of photograph materials, drugs and oil papers have been rendered useless because they are kept in the open? Have Government taken any steps and what is the position of these articles at present?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have taken steps. So far as medical stores are concerned worth about a crore and a half, they have been distributed—the bulk of them—to provincial governments according to the requirements of their hospitals.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: What is the sum realized from the disposal of these articles last year?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: From January to October 1949 the following are the figures:

Book value of British and Indian goods Rs. 15 crores and sale price Rs. 7.95 crores.

American goods, book value Rs. 9.81 crores and sale price Rs. 1.2 crores. Salvage and scrap '85 crores.

The total comes to about Rs. 25 crores book value as against a sale price of Rs. 10 crores.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have instances come to the notice of the Honourable Minister where stores sold by the Disposals Organisation were still in the depot and Government again purchased those very stores at three or four times the cost from the very persons to whom they had sold them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In one or two cases, that has happened. Goods were sold by auction some time ago and then later on when Government wanted to purchase, tenders were invited and the same people quoted rates which were higher than the rates at which they purchased. Of course, one aspect should not be forgotten, namely, these parties had spent lakhs of rupees over the entire stocks and they also lost quite a considerable proportion on some of them.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Has the Honourable Minister received information about a lot of thinner (I mean thinner used for polishing) which was sold to a very big firm, which was still in the depot, and the same thinner was again purchased by the Government Department at three or four times the price?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I cannot refer to any particular item. If the Honourable Member will give me the details, I shall find out.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Minister satisfied that this was not by arrangement?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is not by arrangement. Things are sold by tender.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Can the Honourable Minister give us an idea of the loss incurred during storage of these articles?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is very difficult.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know why Government auctioned these articles when there was a demand for them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: When these goods were auctioned, there was no demand. The demand came later on.

Shri S. Nagappa: Could not the Government anticipate the demand?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In some cases it was anticipated; in some cases, it was not.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: The Honourable Minister stated that the book value of American goods was Rs. 9.81 crores but the actual sale price was Rs. 1.2 crores. Are the Government satisfied with the price realized? Why should there be such an amount of disproportion between the book value and the actual sale price?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In some cases the American goods were consumer goods which were not of proper value and quite a lot of these consumer goods had also to be destroyed. That is why there is such a big discrepancy.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Has any action been taken against any officer who was found dealing in irregular transactions in regard to disposals so far?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There have been a number of prosecutions, dismissals and suspensions.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: That is good.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Have Government any idea of the time by which this Disposals Organisation will be wound up?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I said probably by the end of 1951.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I do not want to put Question 458. I shall put 459.

WAGES OF LINO-TYPISTS

*459. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that lino-operators in the newspaper industry in India are all paid in different systems of wages, namely, fixed and piece-rate system?

(b) Have there been any representation made to Government of India for abolition of piece-rate system and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Yes.

(b) A representation from an individual was received. It was examined, but the matter was not pursued further as there was no special reason for interference by the Central Government in a Provincial subject.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Was any representation received from the Press Employees' union in Bombay by the Government of India in this connection?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have stated, a representation was received from one individual who is himself a lino-type operator.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I am not talking of an individual. May I know whether the General Secretary of the Press Employees' Union, 219 Bhutha Nivas, Matunga, Bombay, sent a representation to the Honourable Minister on the 18th April stating his complaints about this method of wages?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have stated, a representation was received, but as this question is within the sphere of the provincial governments, it was not thought proper to interfere in that matter.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether such a matter calls for even the interference of the provincial government? Is it not putting a premium on inefficiency by restricting a certain system that obtains in this industry?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is a matter of opinion, but I see nothing wrong in the provincial government interfering in such matters.

Shri S. Nagappa: Whether it is the fixed rate system or the piece-rate system, may I know whether the wages that are paid are commensurate with the cost of living and the standard of work turned out by these workers?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: That question might appropriately be put to the provincial governments concerned.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I state that Mr. Sidhva has given 7 questions. It is not right that the order paper should be overloaded with more than five questions for each member. It is open to the Honourable Member to choose and he has chosen to drop 458. That completes five questions. Although a number of Ministers have been brought here and waiting to answer all his questions, he has already exhausted his five questions. I understand on a prior occasion the Speaker allowed the Honourable Member to put one of the questions which was his sixth question, but he had made it clear that it was not to be taken as a precedent. I have to follow that ruling and therefore I disallow further questions by Mr. Sidhva.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: He has only put five.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not a question of five. The first five will be answered. It is open to him to give up one question or all the five questions. He would not be allowed to go beyond five.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: If you had told me before, I would not have dropped it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. It is for the Honourable Member to choose. I have nothing to say. I will pass over the questions of Mr. Sidhva.

GUNITED HOUSES FOR REFUGEES

†*460. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Railways have built gunited houses in Bombay from cheap materials for railway employees?

(b) If so, do the Government of India intend to build similar types of houses for rehabilitation of refugees in Delhi and in other places where they control refugee camps?

(c) What is the cost of each such house in Bombay and what is the cost of a prefabricated house which the Government of India contemplate manufacturing in India?

(d) How many refugees are still in Delhi without houses being provided to them?

(e) Have Government provided plots to refugee housing societies and if so, what are their names and what are the areas allotted and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes.

(b) No, the cost of gunited houses is nearly the same as the cost of traditional houses. Moreover, gunited houses require large quantities of cement and steel which are in short supply.

I may also inform the Honourable Member that the type of houses for displaced persons, is a matter entirely for the Provincial Government, or the individual displaced person to decide.

(c) This question can be answered partly by the Ministry of Railways and partly by the Ministry of Health.

(d) It is not easy to estimate the number. But I may inform the Honourable Member that out of the quota of three lakhs reserved for Delhi nearly 2½ lakhs displaced persons have been accommodated in evacuee and other houses. This leaves a balance of about 50,000; and they will be provided for during the next financial year.

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(e) 1,230 plots have been allotted to displaced persons, although no land has been so far given to Co-operative housing Societies. This is partly because land is not easily available in the vicinity of Delhi; and partly because Co-operative Societies are not agreeable to develop the land. Discussions are, however, going on with the Societies.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES

†*461. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many of the refugees originally kept in camps have been rehabilitated?

(b) How many are still without houses?

(c) When are they likely to be provided with permanent homes?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The peak camp population was 9,58,000 in May 1948 and it had come down to 6,48,200 at the end of October 1949. No economic census of displaced persons has been taken; and it is not possible to give the required number. But, I believe, about 60 per cent. of them have been rehabilitated.

(b) The required information is not readily available.

(c) A number of housing schemes are in hand all over the country; and, I believe, most of the displaced persons will be able to get roofed accommodation within two years.

CULTURED PEARLS (IMPORT)

*462. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state if any licence for the import of cultured pearls from Japan was issued by Government during the current year?

(b) If so, when was such a licence issued, and what was the total cost of pearls imported?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Two licences were granted during the current year for import of cultured pearls from Japan.

(b) One licence was granted in January and the other in March 1949, each valid for six months. These licences were granted subject to the condition that the goods will be re-exported, after being processed, to dollar or hard currency areas within six months of the importation and a bond for 300 per cent of the value for compliance with this condition was taken in each case.

The total import of pearls during January to September 1949 has been for Rs. 59,132.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Were the pearls re-exported after being processed?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The period has not yet lapsed, because the actual importation took place rather late and only in part. So only after the six months period is over that the enquiry will be made and either the penalty will be imposed or the matter would be concluded.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Do they require an export licence to re-export?

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not think so, because that is a part of the importation.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know if there is no market in India for cultured pearls?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: There may be, but we do not want to encourage the importation of cultured pearls at the cost of our foreign exchange for consumption in India.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Is it a fact that cultured pearls are only to be used by cultured people?

MEDICINAL HERBS IMPORT

***463. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what are the medicinal herbs and plants that are imported into India for pharmaceutical preparations?

(b) What are their respective costs, quantities and the amount of import duties paid on them?

(c) What are the different herbs and plants that are exported from India and what are their respective costs?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) to (c). From the Sea Borne Trade of India returns for 1948-49, I find that only Aloes and Sarsapilla are mentioned amongst imports, and only Nuxvomica and Senna amongst exports. I have no doubt various other medicinal herbs and plants are imported and exported, but no separate statistics are maintained. The quantity and value of the items I have mentioned above, imported and exported, are indicated in the Statement I place on the Table of the House (See Appendix XII, annexure No. 1). In the absence of any mention of any specific period in the Question, I have given the figures for 1948-49.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, the amount of dollar earned by these exports?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have not got the figures here of the dollar and non-dollar earnings separately.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, whether *isfagul* is included in the list?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is not, I am afraid, indicated separately.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether it will be possible for India in the near future to develop this export into a flourishing one?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I hope so.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Do Government consider it desirable to give encouragement to this sort of export trade?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Surely.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: In what form do they propose to give encouragement?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should like to consider suggestions from my Honourable Friend.

IMPORTS

***464. Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what were the main items of import from dollar areas before devaluation?

(b) In how many cases have we diverted the import from dollar areas to sterling areas?

(c) What is the net saving in dollars by this diversion of imports after devaluation?

(d) Have the prices prevailing in the sterling areas shown any rise after the devaluation?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) I place on the Table of the House a statement giving the main items of import from dollar areas during the period July 1948 to June 1949 immediately before devaluation (See Appendix XII, annexure No. 2).

(b) and (c). It is difficult to assess at such an early date the result of devaluation and of the extent of diversion of trade from dollar areas to sterling areas. Our import licensing policy from dollar areas for the July-December 1949 period was framed on the 12th September 1949 just before devaluation and after taking full account of the shortage of dollar exchange which itself led to devaluation. Only such goods are being licensed for dollar areas as are not available from other areas and only to such extent as is essential to meet the country's minimum requirements. I place two statements on the Table showing goods previously licensed for imports from dollar areas which are not now being licensed or are being restricted more severely than in the past. (See Appendix XII, annexure No. 3).

The list of articles licensable for commercial imports under the current policy from dollar areas was reviewed immediately after devaluation, but it was decided that no changes were necessary for the reason indicated above. As for licences issued for import from dollar areas in earlier periods before devaluation, it is not as yet possible to state whether importers in possession of such licences would in respect of some of the items prefer not to utilise them and to turn to soft currency sources which may now be able to meet the requirements.

(d) (i) It is difficult to state whether prices generally have shown any rise in the sterling area after the recent devaluation since full statistical data is not as yet available, and secondly, the period of two months is too short for the emergence of any significant changes.

Petroleum products from Middle East sources have, however, registered an increase almost to the full extent of the devaluation of the pound sterling and certain non-ferrous metals have also registered a substantial increase in price since devaluation.

(ii) I place on the Table of the House a statement showing the trend of wholesale prices in the U. K. after the devaluation (See Appendix XII, annexure No. 4).

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

CONCILIATION BOARD'S AWARD

†*465. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that colliery owners have failed to implement the Conciliation Board's Award in several cases;

(b) whether Government are aware of any cases where the advice of the Conciliation Officers and Labour Commissioners have been disregarded by the colliery owners; and

(c) if so, what Government propose to do to implement them?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The recommendations of the Conciliation Board have generally been implemented by colliery managements. There have, however, been a few complaints of non-implementation, but these have arisen largely due to differences in the interpretation of the recommendations of the Board. Where such differences have arisen, officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery have tried to conciliate the dispute with a view to bringing about a settlement. In some case they have been referred to Adjudication.

(b) The advice tendered by officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery during conciliation proceedings is given due consideration by the colliery managements. Government are not aware of any case where colliery managements have disregarded the advice given by the conciliation officers.

(c) Does not arise.

IMPORTS

†*466. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the names and value of the principal commodities imported from U.S.A. and other dollar areas during the year 1947-48 and 1948-49;

(b) the import of which of these commodities is going to be decreased or stopped as a result of the devaluation of rupee;

(c) the alternative country or countries from where these commodities are intended to be imported; and

(d) the approximate time it will take to effect this change?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) I place on the Table of the House a statement showing the names and value of the principal commodities imported from the U.S.A. and other dollar areas during the year 1947-48 and 1948-49. [See Appendix XII, annexure No. 5 (statement I)].

(b) Our import policy for the July-December 1949 period for dollar areas was framed on the 12th September 1949 just before devaluation after fully taking into account our dollar exchange position and only such goods are being licensed now as are not available from other areas and only to such an extent as is essential to meet the country's minimum requirements. I place on the Table of the House two statements showing commodities which were being licensed earlier for import from dollar areas, but which are either not being licensed at all now or are being licensed only to a smaller extent than before. [See Appendix XII, annexure No. 5 (Statements II and III)].

It has, not therefore been considered necessary since devaluation to modify the policy so as to decrease or stop the import of any particular commodity from dollar area. The position is, however, kept under constant review and in preparing the policy for the next half year such information as is received of likely improvement in availabilities from soft currency sources will be fully taken into account.

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

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

EXPORT OF INDIAN SUGAR

†*467. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what are the principal countries to which Indian sugar has been exported since the close of the war?

(b) How does the price of our sugar in those countries compare with the price of sugar imported from other countries, in particular Java and Cuba?

(c) What has been the general trend of our export trade in sugar, whether it has been rising or declining since the close of the war?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Neighbouring countries of Persian Gulf Sheikdoms, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal.

(b) So far as Pakistan is concerned, it is learnt that she imported some sugar at an approximate cost of C.I.F. Rs. 19 per maund from dollar sources and Rs. 21 per maund from sterling areas against Rs. 28/8/- per maund, the price of Indian sugar. We have no information with regard to countries other than Pakistan.

(c) The approximate quantities of sugar exported during 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49 are 7,914, 7,610, and 15,169 tons respectively. The approximate quantity exported during the five months ended August 1949 is 3,387 tons. Thus there was an upward trend in 1948-49, mainly because of greater imports by Pakistan. But for this, our exports are more or less stationary at about seven to eight thousand tons.

EXPORT OF ONIONS AND CHILLIES

*468. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government issued orders in September, 1949 for decontrolling export of onions and chillies;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Deputy Controller of Exports failed to promptly communicate those orders to the customs authorities;

(c) whether Government are aware that the relevant papers were subsequently transferred by the Deputy Controller of Exports to the Assistant Controller of Exports for necessary action;

(d) whether Government are aware that after the transfer of papers to the Assistant Controller, the Deputy Controller asked the Collector of Customs, Madras, to issue a licence to a person in Madras for export of 200 tons of chillies to Ceylon;

(e) whether Government are aware that the licence so issued was later sold in the black market by the licensee; and

(f) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The export of onions and chillies has not been decontrolled. Orders were issued in October 1949 to allow shipments within over-all limits by anyone who wanted to export onions and chillies and to stop exports when the quantitative ceilings were reached.

(b) No, the orders were communicated as soon as the Commerce Ministry decided that they should be.

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

(c) I am not clear about the significance of the word 'subsequently' in the question. The papers dealing with this matter were however dealt with by the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports in the beginning, but after a decision was taken the Assistant Chief Controller of Exports issued the necessary orders etc. in the ordinary course.

(d) The Deputy Controller did ask the collector to issue a licence to a person in Madras but there is no question of any transfer of papers to the Assistant Controller.

(e) An enquiry was made by me on the point when a similar allegation was made earlier and there was no evidence to support this view.

(f) No action by Government seems to be called for.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of answer to part (b) of the question is it not a fact that there was a time lag between the passing of the order and the communication of the order to the person concerned?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That was deliberate.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Why was it so?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The decision was taken in this matter that free exportation would be allowed subject to an overall ceiling. But because certain correspondence was going on between us and the Trade Commissioner in Ceylon in regard to certain details about the licensing procedure of Ceylon, it was decided not to issue the order till that matter had been disposed of.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When correspondence was going on between us and the Trade Commissioner of Ceylon why was a decision taken at all—why was it not kept pending?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The correspondence was not so material as to affect the decision.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact, Sir, that in the case of the license issued to this person, a period of three months was specified in the license for export of chillies when no such facilities were ordinarily given to other exporters?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Actually, the other exporters got very much larger facilities, because they were not called upon to take any license after the new policy was adopted.

Shri S. Nagappa: Arising out of answer given to clause (c), may I know, Sir, what steps Government have actually taken to see that the commodities for which licence was issued were not blackmarketed.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact I find that there was an interval of three days only in which to blackmarket—if at all—because the license was given on the 6th and on the 8th the decision was announced that no license was needed.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know, Sir, if anybody is prepared to come forward and prove that there was actual blackmarketing, will Government accept it and make an enquiry?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Sir, the Honourable Member himself, who is interested in this particular matter has not helped me in making that enquiry. I had more than once discussed this matter with him and I had addressed a letter also to him, which I am prepared to place on the Table of the House.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether it is not a fact that the facts given by me were not gone into in detail and that the information supplied by me was not fully utilised?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The case was fully gone into by several officers of my Ministry and again examined by me at a later stage.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: Arising out of answer to part (c) may I know what is the text of the order.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not find reference to any order in my answer to part (c).

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: In regard to answer to part (e) have Government got in their possession any information as to whether the person who received this license has availed himself of the license?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am very glad that my Honourable Friend has put this question, because the license application was for 350 tons. The license granted was for 200 tons and I understand that the actual quantity exported was 7½ tons.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that in this particular case of issue of a license the *modus operandi* that was followed was that, the Deputy Controller wrote to the Collector of Customs, Madras asking him to issue a license to this person and a copy of that letter was handed over to the person here?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That may have been so. But there is nothing wrong in that procedure. On the 6th the day that the license was granted, the decision of the Government on liberalisation of exports, (that no license would be needed in future) had been arrived at already and there was no justification on that date to withhold a license knowing all the time that within two days the order would be issued freeing the export trade in this commodity from the licensing procedure.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know to whom the license was issued?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should not like to give the name of the party.

ELECTORAL ROLLS

***469. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been reported by the various provinces and states in respect of the preparation of electoral rolls; and

(b) the probable date of general elections under the new Constitution?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) The position in regard to the preparation of preliminary electoral rolls and the printing of those rolls is as follows:

In East Punjab, the rolls have already been printed while in Madras, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Coorg, they are under print. In Bombay, the United Provinces, C.P. and Berar, Assam, Madhyabharat, Rajasthan, Ajmer-Merwara, Panth-Piploda, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura, the manuscript rolls are complete. Good progress in the preparation of manuscript rolls has also been reported by the Governments of Saurashtra, Patiala and East Punjab States Union, Delhi, Bhopal and Cooch-Bihar. Electoral rolls, prepared on

the basis of adult franchise for elections to the Constituent Assembly or the State Legislature as the case may be, already exist in Mysore, Travancore-Cochin and the Rewa State (in Vindhya Pradesh) and are being revised with a view to their adoption for elections under the new Constitution. The preparation of the electoral rolls has just been taken up in the covenanting States, other than Rewa, of Vindhya Pradesh, and the Chief Commissioners' Provinces of Bilaspur, Kutch and Manipur. The question of preparation of electoral rolls has not yet been taken up with Hyderabad but there again electoral rolls prepared on the basis of adult suffrage in connection with their elections to the Constituent Assembly of Hyderabad exist. There will be no difficulty in revising them for the purposes of elections under the new Constitution.

The Government of Kashmir do not appear to have taken any action so far. The question is being taken up with that Government.

(b) The elections are expected to be held in 1950 or 1951.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With regard to answer given that manuscript rolls are complete in certain Provinces and States, am I to understand that they are complete with reference to both rural and urban areas?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: It is implied.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: May I know, Sir, when the electoral rolls have been prepared in Bengal, why is it that a general election on the old franchise is contemplated.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know, Sir, in view of the nature of the care-taker Government in Patiala and East Punjab States Union whether there is an early election taking place or not? What I want to know is whether the electoral rolls in Patiala and East Punjab States Union have been completed and if so, are there any reasonable prospects of an early election?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: They are under preparation and as soon as they are ready, the elections may be held.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of answer to part (b) of the question has the work of delimitation of constituencies also been taken in hand?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Yes, Sir. Proposals have been invited from the Provinces and States and as soon as their replies are received the Election Commissioner will examine them.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know as to how without delimitation of the constituencies the electoral rolls have been prepared because as far as I understand the electoral rolls are prepared after the constituencies have been demarcated.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: In view of the fact that the Constituent Assembly has reserved seats for the Harijans, may I know from the Honourable Minister whether the rolls that are being prepared make a mention of the Scheduled Castes?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: That question has already been referred to the Provinces and they are considering it.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Has not an order from the Government of India gone to mention the cost of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes in the electoral rolls to the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The manner in which reservations are to be made for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes, these particulars have been sent to all the Provinces.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In spite of the fact, Sir, that so much work yet remains to be done, is Government in a position to assure the House that the general elections will be held in the winter of 1950-51?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: All possible efforts are being made and in spite of that if something unforeseen happens, we can't say.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: May I enquire whether the Election Commissioner has been appointed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The matter is under consideration.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Government intend to conduct elections at least in the States where the electoral rolls are ready?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: There must be one period contemplated, one time for general election.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: I have not got an answer to my question. Already in Madras they have published the delimitation of constituencies. How could it be possible before the Election Commissioner and the Delimitation Committee are appointed. I saw in the papers that the Madras Government is doing it.

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The appointment of the Election Commissioner is under consideration and by the time the reports are received, the Election Commissioner will be in existence.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: With regard to part (a) have the Central Government issued any directives to Provinces and States that by a particular date the electoral rolls should be prepared and printed?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I am afraid I have no information on that subject.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if the constituencies have been made on the basis of single constituencies or plural constituencies?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Legislation will be brought for that purpose.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: May I know whether Government are contemplating to take the census first or the election first?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: How does it arise out of this Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This does not arise out of the question.

REHABILITATION

*470. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state what measures have been devised by Government for absorption of displaced persons in (i) agriculture, (ii) occupations other than agriculture?

(b) In what way is it expected gainfully to absorb refugees ultimately through work centres?

(c) How many refugees have been trained in industrial occupations and trades and how many have been actually absorbed in the industries or trades?

(d) What measures have been adopted to help them in getting absorbed in shop-keeping and in business in general, apart from the grant of loans?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) to (d). The question covers the whole field of rehabilitation, and the information required cannot be given in the course of an answer. The Honourable Member is referred for information on these points to the quarterly reviews published by the Rehabilitation Ministry, copies of which have been supplied to all the Members of the House.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: I would like to know in view of the still very confused position, what is the position of East Bengal refugees as regards their absorption in Agriculture in the Province of Assam and Bihar and whether Governments of Assam and Bihar have taken adequate steps to absorb them. If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: At present there are no schemes for absorption in agriculture in Assam and Bihar.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: What are the reasons why the Assam Government in spite of their having so much land is not absorbing them there?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The position of the Assam Government is that although so much land is available there are difficulties because of tribal people and also because part of the land is situated in hills and therefore it is not possible to settle them on land.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether it is a fact that vast amounts of land are available in non-tribal areas?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I would require notice of this question.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether any refugees have been allotted land in East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is it a fact that many refugees are still awaiting the permits?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is so.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What steps Government have taken for training East Bengal refugees in industrial occupations?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: We have started certain vocational training centres in West Bengal and we have already introduced a scheme for training in factories.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Would the Government consider the question of training the East Bengal refugees in the Chittaranjan Factory and take these refugees in very large numbers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: If the Honourable Member is referring to the Railway Workshops, then, of course, we have got a scheme and a township is going to be built there and people are going to be settled there. We have already prepared a scheme.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: It is not a question of town-ship. Have Government arrived at a policy of taking the East Bengal refugees as trainees in that factory and if so, in what proportion?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As a matter of fact as I have already stated a scheme has already been prepared. It has not yet been implemented but certain number of refugees will be trained in the Workshop.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Have the Government fixed any proportion for the employment of East Bengal refugees in the factory?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: If the Honourable Member wants the precise number he must put a question to the Railway Minister.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether the Government have taken steps to organise multi-purpose co-operative societies for the benefit of these refugees; if so, how many, if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I think two or three such societies have been organised in Delhi. The difficulty is that people are not in favour of making organised efforts for the purpose. They are not so minded. We have also not got social workers to take up the organisation of these societies.

Shri S. Nagappa: My question was about the number of multi-purpose co-operative societies.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Three.

Shri Raj Bahadur: In east Rajasthan there are certain lands without refugees and there are refugees without lands.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Well, if the Honourable Member gives me information I will make enquiries.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: The Honourable Minister has been pleased to state the attitude of the Assam Government. I would like to know the attitude of the Bihar Government as regards the absorption of the refugees?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There is no question of refugees there from any particular province. In Bihar there is no scheme of agricultural settlement.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: In view of the fact that many people from East Bengal have gone to Bihar, may I know in what way the Bihar Government are rehabilitating them?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have no information that many have gone there. Some of them have gone there and they are settling there like others. As a matter of fact the number of displaced persons from East Pakistan is much larger than others.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Have the Government so far not formulated any scheme for the rehabilitation of the refugees when such a big number has been there already for a long time?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am informed that there is no land available for settlement on agriculture. But they have settled them in shops and other vocations. There are also schemes for settling them in towns.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question please.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: One question more, Sir. Is there any scheme to settle the East Bengal refugees in shop-keeping and in business in Assam and in Bihar?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have already informed the House that there are schemes for settling them in shop-keeping in Bihar. But there is no such scheme at present in Assam.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS ACT

***471. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that though the Chartered Accountants Act has come into effect from May, 1949, the rules to be framed thereunder, especially under section 4(1), have not been framed yet? If so, what is the reason for the delay and when do Government propose to issue those rules?

(b) Do Government contemplate to place a copy of the various rules framed under the Chartered Accountants Act on the Table of the House and give an opportunity to the members to discuss them? If not, why not?

(c) What are the countries whose degrees or memberships of their various Associations have been recognised under Reciprocity Clause for enrolment on the register of Chartered Accountants? Do Government propose to lay a list of such countries on the Table of the House?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The Chartered Accountants Act came into force only from the 1st July, 1949. The regulations to be framed under Section 30 of the Act were published in the *Gazette of India* dated the 25th June, 1949. The conditions to be laid down by Government under Section 4(1) (iii) and (iv) of the Act are under consideration. Certain necessary information is being collected and an announcement will be made as soon as possible.

(b) Government have so far framed only the Chartered Accountants Regulations, under Section 30(4) of the Act. A few copies of the Regulations have been placed in the Library of the House for the information of Honourable Members. The power to make regulations hereafter vests in the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and not in Government.

(c) The question is under consideration by the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

EVACUEE PROPERTY

***472. Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government have got the total estimate made of the evacuee property of our nationals in Pakistan and that of the nationals of Pakistan in India?

(b) If so, what are the estimates of each of these?

(c) Have our nationals been able to realise any amount of their property from Pakistan and the nationals of Pakistan from India?

(d) If so, what is the amount of such realisation in each case?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Government have made no estimate of evacuee property of Indian Nationals in Pakistan or of the property of Pakistan Nationals in India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some of the Indian nationals have been able to realize, though not in full, the value of their property in Pakistan, both by the sale of immovable property as also the evacuation of movable property. Likewise Pakistan Nationals have been able to transfer property or value thereof from India to Pakistan.

(d) Figures of the value of property or cash transferred are not available.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Is it under contemplation to make an estimate of this property?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes. We have been pressing upon the Pakistan Government to appoint joint assessment boards. Otherwise it will not be possible to have estimates of property in Pakistan. So far as the property of Muslim evacuees in India is concerned, we have written to provincial Governments.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will it include property in East Bengal?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No, because the Evacuee Property law does not apply to East or West Bengal. There is a separate agreement between India and Pakistan governing those areas.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: In any case there is property left behind by Hindus there. Should not Government have some estimate of that property?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There is a different agreement. I do not know how we can have an estimate of property when people have not left? Some have of course left.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know what the reaction of the Pakistan Government is to the request of this Government for a joint commission to make an estimate of the evacuee property in Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: They have been resisting the suggestion.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether it is a fact that, so far as the agreement between India and Pakistan as regards eastern Pakistan, is concerned, Pakistan has infringed that agreement by extending the Evacuee Property Act in Pakistan to East Bengal?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No. They have not up till now extended it. They have only taken powers under the new Evacuee Property Ordinance to extend it to East Pakistan.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Does the matter rest with the resistance of the Pakistan Government or are the Government taking any other steps?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I would like the Honourable Member to suggest any other means by which we can get estimates of property left in Pakistan.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the Pakistan Custodian has any amount to the credit of our refugees collected from their property?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes. I understand there are considerable sums to the credit of our displaced persons from West Pakistan.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is that amount?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am not in a position to give the exact amount. If the Honourable Member puts a question the information in our possession will be made available.

Sardar Hukam Singh: The Indian nationals and Pakistan nationals have realised some income from their property. May I know the respective sums realised by them?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As I informed the House the other day, so far as the Indian nationals are concerned, they have not realised any sums through the Government.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: If the Pakistan Government got details about our property, have those details been examined by any machinery whatsoever?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As a matter of fact their claims were registered in Delhi and in other provinces. On an examination of the claims it was found that they were so exaggerated that it was not possible to come to even approximate conclusions. Therefore we are devising a machinery by which these displaced persons will have to make statements before regular courts and verify the claims.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Question Hour is now over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

***473. Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state which are the industries wherein production has increased since the statement made by the Honourable Minister during the last Budget-session?

(b) Which are the industries wherein production has gone down since then?

(c) If there has been decline in production in any industry, what action have Government taken to step up production in the same?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). A statement showing the installed capacity, production in 1948 and the first three quarters of 1949 is laid on the Table of the House (See Appendix XII, annexure No. 6).

It will be seen that there has been an upward trend in the production of steel, cement, paper and board, diesel engines, hurricane lanterns, sewing machines etc. Cotton Textiles, Machine tools, Bicycles, some Drugs and Chemicals have registered a fall in production.

(c) The Standing Committee of the Central Advisory Council of Industries has recently recommended (i) the setting up of Working Parties composed of representatives of the Industry concerned, Labour employed in that Industry and Government and (ii) fixing of targets for 1950, in order to secure increase in production quickly in some important industries. Copies of these resolutions are placed on the Table of the House (See Appendix XII, annexure No. 7).

The Government have accepted these recommendations and are now engaged in implementing them.

HINDU-OWNED BUSINESS CONCERNS IN PAKISTAN

***474. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have lodged any protest with the Government of Pakistan in connection with the latter's indiscriminate seizure of Hindu-owned business concerns in Pakistan; and if not, why not; and

(b) whether the Government of India have any intention of moving in this matter before the U.N.O. or the International Court of Justice?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): (a) The Government of India drew the attention of the Government of Pakistan to a number of allegations to the effect that they had been seizing properties of non-Muslims living in Pakistan. The Pakistan Government

denied these allegations and added that any person aggrieved at the steps taken by an official of the Custodian Organisation in Pakistan was at liberty to appeal to the Custodian. But not a single appeal had till then been filed by the parties reported to have been affected.

(b) The Government of India are still trying to settle the problem of evacuee property in the two countries by negotiation. Only when these efforts finally fail, they will consider whether other course should be adopted.

PROPERTIES OF HINDUS IN PAKISTAN

***475. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of Hindu-owned firms, business concerns, Joint Stock companies, factories, etc., carrying on business in the Dominion of Pakistan in July, 1949;

(b) what is the number of such firms, business concerns, factories, etc., seized, sealed and taken possession of by the Custodian of Evacuee Property in Pakistan and what is the extent and value of the property involved therein; and

(c) how many Hindu shops and business concerns are still existing in Pakistan, and whether they have also been served with notices to show cause why they should not also be seized as Evacuee Property?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) and (b). The Government of India do not have the required statistics.

(c) According to our information there are three or four Hindu shops and concerns still functioning in Lahore and a handful in Karachi so far as the Government of India are aware. The Government of India are not aware if notices have also been served on them. Generally the Pakistan authorities took over concerns without notice.

EVACUEE PROPERTY

***476. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate value of the property in the hands of the Custodians in the whole of India immediately before the coming into force of the administration of Evacuee Property Ordinance No. XXVII of 1949;

(b) the approximate value of the property released or liable to be released as a result of the said Ordinance No. XXVII of 1949 out of the property referred to in part (a); and

(c) the respective figures in respect of properties referred to in parts (a) and (b) for each of the Provinces and States in India?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) and (b). Information is not available.

(c) Does not arise in view of the position stated in reply to part (a).

DISPLACED PERSONS FROM KASHMIR

***477. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of displaced persons from raider-held territory in Kashmir living in India?

(b) How many of them are Hindus, how many are Sikhs and how many are Muslims?

(c) What are the plans for their rehabilitation and how far have these displaced persons been rehabilitated?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) and (b). Of the displaced persons who have escaped from Kashmir territory under the enemy 8,300 are in Yol Camp, 33,118 in Jammu Camp and 4,800 in Hoshiarpur. It is difficult to estimate the number of those who are outside, for the displaced persons are so scattered that the cost of a census would be out of all proportion to the advantages thereof.

(c) Many of them are reported to have been settled on land, but detailed plans of their rehabilitation are being formulated.

CLOTH SUPPLY

***478. { Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:**

Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bales of cloth received in the Provinces of Assam and Orissa from Bombay and Bengal during the year 1948 and from 1st January to 31st October 1949;

(b) whether Government have made any arrangement for transportation of the bales through Eastern Pakistan;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House the conditions agreed to by the Pakistan Government;

(d) whether Government are aware that there is a great dearth of ordinary qualities of *dhoties*, *sarees* and *markins* in the Province of Assam; and

(e) whether Government propose to take steps to provide cloth to the people of Assam?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House [See *Appendix XII, annexure No. 8 (Statement I)*].

(b) Yes. There were difficulties in the way of moving cloth to Assam from Calcutta *via* Santahar. Cloth from Bombay and Ahmedabad is now moving *via* the O.T. Railway and Katihar. In addition the all-river route from Calcutta is also being used.

(c) The relevant clause of the Inter-Dominion Agreement between India and Pakistan reached in Delhi in December 1948 is placed on the Table of the House [See *Appendix XII, annexure No. 8 (Statement II)*].

(d) The Government of Assam have reported that there is now no shortage of ordinary qualities of *dhoties*, *sarees*, and *markins* in Assam.

(e) The Assam Government have always been given their regular quotas of cloth through their own nominees, and the Central Government will be prepared to give to Assam any additional quotas which the Assam Government may ask for. The movement of cloth to Assam through normal trade channels has been temporarily restricted at the special request of the Assam Government.

FOREIGN TRADE

***479. Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to give the figures of the Foreign Trade of India sea-borne as well as across land frontier, distinguishing between imports, exports and re-exports quarterly since 1st April, 1945 to the end of the second quarter 1949-50?

(b) Will Government indicate the reaction, as revealed by the statistics given in reply to part (a) above of the devaluation of the Rupee in terms of gold, upon the volume, value, and direction of the foreign trade of India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) I lay on the Table of the House statements giving figures of the Foreign Trade of India sea-borne as well as across land frontier, distinguishing between imports, exports and re-exports monthly since 1st April 1945 to the end of the second quarter 1949-50. (See *Appendix XII, annexure No. 9*).

(b) As figures of the Foreign Trade of India since devaluation, *i.e.*, from October, are not yet available, it is not possible to reply to this part of the question.

COAL RAISING CONTRACT

***480. Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Coal Raising Contract of the Government Railway Pondi Hill Colliery (in the merged State of Korea in the Central Provinces) was given to one Mr. D. P. Rawal his tender being the lowest, inclusive of the costs of explosives and drilling etc., but after acceptance of his tender, he was again allowed costs of explosives and drilling and thus a higher rate than the one given to other tenderers was allowed to him?

(b) If so, why was the rate increased?

(c) Have Government enquired into the matter and taken suitable action?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The original tendered rates of Mr. D. P. Rawal were inclusive of the costs of explosives and drilling charges. It was, however, decided that the cost of explosives and drilling charges should be paid separately on the past year's actuals. The original tendered rates were accordingly reduced and the tender of Mr. Rawal was sanctioned exclusive of the cost of explosives and drilling charges.

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

ENROLMENT OF ADVOCATES OF HIGH COURTS IN STATES IN FEDERAL COURT

***481. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there is no provision at present, for an advocate of a High Court of an acceded state to get himself enrolled as an advocate of the Federal Court; and

(b) whether Government will bring this matter to the notice of the Federal Court?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) Yes.

(b) The Federal Court has been requested to make suitable provision in its rules made under section 214 of the Government of India Act, 1935, for the enrolment of advocates of the High Courts of Accessory States.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Monday, 12th December, 1949

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Deputy Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

IMPORTED MACHINERY LYING IN THE INDIAN NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING

*482. Shri R. K. Sidha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that machinery worth more than two lakhs of Rupees, imported from hard currency areas and brought to India about 18 months ago under the highest priority is lying stacked in the Indian National Archives Building in New Delhi?

(b) If so, what is the nature of this machinery and for what purpose was it imported?

(c) Why has there been such delay in utilising this machinery?

(d) What is the condition of this machinery at present?

آرمیڈل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) ایسا نہیں ہوا ہے کہ مشینری کہیں ڈال دی گئی ہو اور بیکور پی ہو۔ اسے اپنی جگہ لگانے اور تھیک طور پر کھڑا کرنے کا کام بہت کچھ ہو چکا ہے۔

(b) مشینری ان تین کاموں کے لئے منگوائی گئی ہے۔

(1) پڑانے لکھنوں اور کتابوں میں جو کپڑے لگ جاتے ہیں ان کی صفائی۔

(2) اسے پڑانے لکھنوں کی میکانیکل مرمت جو چھونے سے تکرے تکرے ہو جاتے ہیں۔

(3) ڈاکومنٹ کو مائکروفلم کرنا اور فوٹو کی کاپیاں تیار کرنا۔

(c) مشینری کے لگانے میں دیر رفت کی کمی کی وجہ سے ہوئی تھی۔ اس برس دیکھ اس کے لئے نکالا گیا اور مشینیں لگا دی گئی ہیں۔

(d) مشینری کی حالت ٹھیک ہے - کوئی خرابی دکھائی نہیں دیتی - اگر کسی طرح کی خرابی آئی ہوگی تو اس کا ٹھیک حال اس وقت معلوم ہو سکتا ہے جب وہ چلائی جائیگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The machinery is not lying stacked: its installation is in progress.

(b) The machinery is meant for the (i) Vacuum fumigation of insect infested records, (ii) mechanical repairing of old and brittle documents with cellulose acetate foil, and (iii) microfilming and photo-duplication of documents.

(c) The delay in installing the machinery has been due to lack of funds. Some funds have, however, now been made available and the machinery is being installed.

(d) The present condition of the machinery is sound and no major damage has taken place. The extent of the actual damage and defects, if any, would, however, be known only when the machinery has been properly installed and worked.

شری آر - کے - سدھوا : میں جناب وزیر صاحب سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ مشین کب آئی - کب لگا دی گئی اور ان کا کتنا تھا -

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I ask the Honourable Minister as to when the machinery arrived, when was it installed, and what was its price?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اکتوبر سنہ ۱۹۴۸ میں دہلی پہنچی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The machinery was received in Delhi in October, 1948.

شری آر - کے - سدھوا : یعنی سنہ ۱۹۴۸ میں آئی اور لگ بھی گئی -

Shri R. K. Sidhva: In other words, it arrived in 1948 and was also installed:

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : نہیں، بہت دیر کے بعد لگانے کا کام شروع ہو سکا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No. The installation work could only be undertaken long after.

شری آر - کے - سدھوا : اگر یہ ٹھیک ہے کہ بہت وقت لگا تو میں جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ مشینوں کا کتنا نقصان ہوا -

Shri R. K. Sidhva: If it is correct that it took a long time to instal it, then may I know how much damage was thus caused to the machinery?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں نے خود مشینوں کے تمام حصوں کو دیکھا ہے -

مجھے معلوم ہوا ہے کہ کوئی بڑی خرابی اس میں نہیں ہوئی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I have myself seen all the parts of the machinery and found that no major damage has taken place.

श्री कृष्ण चंद्र शर्मा : कितनी किताबें खराब हो गई हैं जिनको दुरुस्त करने की जरूरत है ?

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: What is the number of books which have been damaged and require to be repaired?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : بہت سی ایسی کتابیں ہونگی جنہیں کمزوروں کے اثر سے محفوظ کر دینا ضروری ہوا - انکی پوری تعداد ابھی میں نہیں بتا سکتا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: There must be many such books which shall have to be protected from being infested by insects. I cannot quote the exact number thereof at the moment.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN NAVY

*482. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Admiral Parry has discussed with the Naval Authorities in Britain about acquiring more ships for India?

(b) If so, what types of ships have been acquired, what is the total cost and when are these likely to arrive in India?

(c) What is the period within which a complete Navy will be established in India?

(d) Is it a fact that the port of Cochin and the place near Mandapam have been selected for development as naval bases and training Centre?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has approved a tentative plan for the navy.

(d) It is the intention to locate several naval training establishments in Cochin.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know from the Honourable Minister what is the report of the Committee in the enquiry instituted regarding the Port of Cochin?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is not possible for me to give the information which the Honourable Member is asking because I have not the report of the Enquiry Committee here. If he is interested, I will be able to furnish him the information.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: As required in part (d) of my question, may I know whether Cochin has been selected for this development?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is what I have stated in my reply. I will repeat for the Honourable Member's information. "It is the intention to locate several naval training establishments in Cochin." It has been decided after the question has been thoroughly investigated.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know at what stage that enquiry has reached?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That does not arise out of this.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: It does arise. My question is, "What is the period within which a complete Navy will be established in India". Is it a fact that the port of Cochin and the place near Mandapam have been selected for development as naval bases and training Centre? I want to know whether any enquiry has been set up and at what stage the enquiry is.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: My reply is quite clear. Government has taken a decision to establish this institution in Cochin after making due enquiries.

Shri B. Das: May I know if sufficient number of naval officers and Indian ratings are being trained to man the Indian Navy in the near future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I require notice.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Has the Government any definite scheme for the development of our Navy and if so has any target been set in the matter of recruiting officers and ratings?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes; as I have already stated, the Government have approved a tentative plan. I am sorry it is not possible to give the details.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it confidential or it is not available?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The details of the plan are confidential. It is not possible to give the number of vessels and the equipment that we are going to purchase.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Has anything been done on the basis of the plan or is it still a paper scheme?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Something has been done.

FIRES IN AMMUNITION TORY, JUBBOLPUR

*484. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether there have been any fires in the Jubbulpore ammunition factory after the month of March 1949?

(b) If so, when did such fires occur?

(c) What were the causes of the fire and the losses sustained and what was the action taken to prevent such fires?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). Presumably the Honourable Member refers to the Gun Carriage Factory as there is no factory called the Ammunition Factory at Jubbulpore. There have been two cases of fire in that Factory, since March, which occurred on the 17th April, 1949 and the 19th May, 1949.

(c) The Courts of Enquiry which investigated these two cases of fire were unable to arrive at definite conclusions regarding the cause. The police investigation report is still awaited. The loss in the April fire is estimated at about Rs. 21 lakhs and in the May fire at about Rs. 250. Apart from tightening of general security measures, anti-smoking and fire precaution measures have been tightened up and the fire brigade staff strengthened. Further measures will be taken, if necessary, on receipt of the police report.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Honourable Minister is referring to the fire in the Ordnance Factory at Kulni or some other fire?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am referring to the fire in the Gun Carriage Factory at Jubbulpore.

NEW COINAGE DESIGNS

*485. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the new coinage designs have been approved of by the Government of India?

(b) If so what are the designs?

(c) How many new designs were placed for consideration by the Coinage Design Committee?

(d) How long will the King's effigy continue to exist on the Indian coins?

(e) What is the cause of delay in introducing the new emblem on coins?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (Minister of Commerce): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new coins will have the 'Lion Capital' of the Asoka Pillar on the obverse. The reverse will bear the design of 'Ears of Corn' in rupee, half-rupee and quarter-rupee coins; 'Asoka Bull' in 2 anna, 1 anna and half-anna coins; and the 'Asoka Horse' in single pice coins.

(c) About 230.

(d) The King's effigy will not appear in the new coins. This will, however, remain on the old coins which will continue to be legal tender.

(e) The delay is mainly due to the capacity of India Government Mints' having been earmarked for a considerable period for Pakistan coinage under the Partition Agreement.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know when these coins will be introduced?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: They are likely to be introduced on the 15th of August, 1950.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister said that our mints were minting Pakistan coinage. May I know whether Pakistan has not got a Mint in Lahore and if so why our mints are allowed to be utilised for minting Pakistan coinage at the cost of delaying our work?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: This was part of the Partition Agreement.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Who were the members of the Coinage Design Committee?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The final decision was of course taken by the Cabinet. There was a Coinage Design Committee set up for the purpose of considering the various designs that had been received from different persons. This Committee consisted of the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Sir Renegal Rama Rau who was then the Governor Designate of the Reserve Bank, the Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, the Mint Masters, Bombay and Calcutta, the Director of the J. J. School of Art, Bombay, and the Secretary, Indian Institute of Art and Industry, Calcutta.

Shri B. Das: May I enquire whether notes of Indian design will be promulgated from the 15th of August or from the 26th of January?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: From the 26th January, 1950.

Shri B. Das: I am enquiring about currency notes of Indian design.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid, I am not in a position just now to reply.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Will the Honourable Minister kindly say what is the percentage of the metals in the alloy?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I would like to have notice.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister say what is the name of the person whose design has been accepted?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is extremely difficult to say whose design was accepted. Perhaps different persons' design in respect of different coins.

WOMEN POLICE

***486. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names of States and Provinces of India where women have been employed in Police?

(b) How many women have been employed in Police in Delhi Province?

(c) Have they got any special duty to perform?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I lay on the Table of the House a statement containing the information desired by the Honourable Member. (See Appendix XIII, annexure No. 1.)

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether any special rates of pay or allowance has been provided for these women police so far as the Centrally Administered areas are concerned?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No special grade of pay.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether any preference is given during selection with regard to special categories of women, viz., married, unmarried or widows?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No special concession.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether there is any age restriction for their appointment?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Minors are not recruited.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether Government have received any reports with regard to the quality of the services of the women where they are employed as women police?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: In their sphere they are doing excellent work.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: In view of the fact that their work is recognized as excellent, is there any proposal to extend their employment?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: We will consider your suggestion.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: I wish to know whether the women police employed by Government are unmarried or married or both?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are married women and there are unmarried also.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have these female police officers or employees been employed at some occasion to catch male offenders as well?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is rather a dangerous experiment which we have not tried so far.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have any women in the Delhi Provincial Police Force reached the grade or rank of Officer?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are two Head Constables, and 18 Foot Constables—No officer.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: Is there any school for training for the women police?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no special school for women.

ITTIHAD-UL-MUSALMEEN LEADERS

***487. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Ittihad-ul-Musalmeen leaders of Hyderabad who have been arrested and imprisoned;

(b) how many of them are being prosecuted; and

(c) how many have been convicted up to now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Sixty-five.

(b) Nineteen.

(c) Three.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What is the charge against these people?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot give you a list of charges against all these people. There will be different charges against different people but there are charges of murder, dacoities etc.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: I wish to know whether this organization has been declared unlawful.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no such organization now.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Will the Honourable Minister kindly let us know whether after the Police Action these people have taken recourse to subversive action against the Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Some of them may have for a little while but subsequently it has disappeared.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether Government could tell the House whether there are still people who have gone underground and who are yet to be traced?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I don't think there are any underground from amongst the class of people to whom the question referred.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: I wish to know whether Mr. Laik Ali, the ex-Prime Minister of Hyderabad was a member of the Ittihad-ul-Musalmeen and if so, whether he has been prosecuted as such?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I don't know whether he was a member of any organization like the non-official organization referred to but he is not being prosecuted for his being a member of that organization but the charges against him are of a different character.

DR. LAUBACH

*488. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government invited Dr. Frank. C. Laubach the well-known American literacy expert to tour India during March and April 1949?

(b) If so, has Dr. Laubach submitted any report or made any suggestions regarding the literacy drive of the Government and if so, what are they?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) ڈاکٹر فرینک سی۔ لیوبک گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کے بلاؤے پر نہیں آئے تھے اپنے طور پر آئے تھے۔ لیکن جب گورنمنٹ کو معلوم ہوا کہ وہ یہاں آئے ہیں اور انہوں نے اپنی سروسز آفر کی ہیں تو وہ خوشی کے ساتھ تیار ہو گئی کہ اسے کام میں لائے۔

(b) ڈاکٹر لیوبک کی چٹھی آنریبل پرائم منسٹر کے نام لکھی تھی اور اس میں کچھ باتیں بتلائیں تھیں بڑی باتیں اُس میں یہ تھیں - ایسے پتے ہوئے لوگوں پر جو کسی دوسرے ان پڑھ آدمیوں کو لکھنا پڑھنا نہ سکھائیں تھیں لکھا جائے - اسی طرح ان پڑھ لوگوں پر ٹیکس لگایا جائے - فوجی بھرتی کی طرح گورنمنٹ کے نوکروں اور وڈیارتھدیوں کو بھرتی کیا جائے اور انہیں پڑھائی کے کام پر لکھایا جائے - ورت دینے کا حق صرف اُن آدمیوں کو دیا جائے جو لکھنا پڑھنا جانتے ہوں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Dr. Frank C. Laubach was not invited by the Government of India. However, the Government utilized offer of his services during his last tour (March-April, 1949) to arouse interest and enthusiasm for literacy campaign in India.

(b) After his visit Dr. Laubach wrote a letter to Prime Minister giving his impression and suggestions, which included:

- (i) The levying of a tax on those who do not teach or learn.
- (ii) Mobilization of students and Government servants for literacy work.
- (iii) Franchise to be limited only to literate adults etc.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether Mr. Laubach worked in an honorary capacity or he was paid for his services?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : آنریسی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Honorary.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know how many of these recommendations have been implemented by Government?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ نے خیال کیا کہ ان کی اکثر تجویزوں پر وہ عمل نہیں کر سکتی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government felt that it could not possibly implement a majority of his recommendations.

مسٹر تجمل حسین : میں جانتا چاہتا ہوں کہ حکومت ہند کا انکی ذات پر کتنا خرچ ہوا۔

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I know what amount has been spent by the Government of India on his account?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں نے ابھی کہا ہے کہ حکومت ہند نے اس پر وہ نہیں آئے تھے اپنے طور پر آئے تھے۔ حکومت ہند کا کوئی خرچ انکے متعلق نہیں ہوا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I have just stated that he did not come on the invitation of the Government of India. He came of his own accord. The Government of India have not incurred any expenditure on his account.

Shri S. Nagappa: What prompted the Government to reject almost all the suggestions made by Dr. Frank Laubach?

CINEMA FILMS

*489. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether the Government of India have come to any decision regarding the length of cinema films?

(b) If so, what is the decision and what are the reasons for arriving at such a decision?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision is that the length of feature films and trailers passed for exhibition should be restricted to a maximum of 11,000 feet and 400 feet respectively. The objects of the restriction which provincial Governments have already been asked to enforce are (i) to effect economy in the consumption and, consequently, in the import of raw film, and (ii) to reduce the cost of production of films, and, possibly, improve the quality of the films. The time thus saved will be available for showing educational and informational shorts as different from feature films.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that Government has imposed these laws of limitations on length of films only to save dollars?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: That is not the only reason. Just now I gave two or three reasons. They are the main reasons.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: I would like to know whether the attention of Government is drawn to the recommendation of the Film Chamber of Madras and if so what is the decision of Government with regard to film footage?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: The matter is still under correspondence and no decision has yet been taken.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know what is the total length of film Government hope to save by imposing these restrictions?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I have not got those figures with me.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister tell the House whether the consumers' propensities or proclivities have been taken into consideration in view of the fact that in Madras where there are large number of cinemas both touring and stationary, the demand from the public is for longer films than of the 11,000 feet variety?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: There is no regular association of consumers as such but we have taken all those things into consideration.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the cinema industry in the country has asked the Government for protection?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: What kind of protection?

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Legal protection.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Are Government aware that a large length of raw film is wasted while a picture is in the stage of production and by the mere restriction of footage of a film there cannot be much saving in raw films?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: All these things have been taken into consideration.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leading articles in the Madras newspapers, including the *Hindu* for the removal of the restriction on footage?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: That question is under correspondence.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Have the Government made it compulsory for cinema theatres to show information and educational films?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Yes, they are technically called "approved films".

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether the Film Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of India is dealing with this particular matter and if so, whether the producers of films are represented on the committee?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: The Film Enquiry Committee has to consider a number of things. Some producers are there but there was no question of the representation of producers of particular regions.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: What was the need for the Government to anticipate the recommendation of the Film Enquiry Committee and cut down the footage of films in the manner in which they have done?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: There was no question of anticipation of any recommendation. The whole matter had already been referred to the provincial governments and producers. Even many of the producers had consented to this kind of cutting down of length.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Is not this matter one of the terms of reference to the Film Enquiry Committee?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Meanwhile, the Committee came into being and naturally we referred this matter also to the Committee.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: When are the Government likely to come to a definite decision regarding the question of footage and how long are they likely to take?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: So far as all other provinces are concerned the decision is already there. It is only Madras which has made a representation and that is under correspondence.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: I was asking my question about Madras only.

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: That is under correspondence.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Will Government stay the implementation of their decision until the report of the committee is published and they had time to consider it?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I do not think it necessary to do so.

HINDI COMMITTEE OF A.I.R.

†*490. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Messrs. Balkrishna Sharma, Moulíchandra Sharma and Viyogi Hari have resigned from the Hindi Committee of the A.I.R.?

(b) If so, what reasons have they assigned for their resignation?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The alleged disregard by All-India Radio of certain suggestions made by some of the non-official members of the Hindi Advisory Committee.

VITAL STATISTICS COMMITTEE

*491. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether any recommendations have been made by the Vital Statistics Committee?

(b) If so, will the report be made available to the members of this House?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: What are the salient features of the recommendations?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The main recommendations made by the Committee are:

(1) Appointment of a Registrar General.

(2) (i) Creation of provincial and State organisations with districts organisations on the lines suggested by the Bhore Committee.

(ii) Arrangements for the centralisation of the compilation of vital statistics of provincial governments.

(iii) Appointment of a vital statistics committee to revise the existing forms of vital statistics returns and devise new forms so as to ensure the compilation of statistical information on uniform lines throughout the country and in a manner suited to the crude nature of the data which alone are available under existing conditions and also to make recommendations for the practical application of the proposal as put forward by the Bhore Committee in regard to district and vital statistics organisations.

(3) The creation of a medical section in the office of the Registrar General and those of the provincial and state registrars.

(4) Development of facilities for statistical training in the universities, etc.

DRINKING WATER

*492. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the scheme for improving supply of drinking water in rural areas initiated by the Centre is still in progress?

(b) When was the scheme launched?

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

(c) How many wells have been constructed on sanitary lines under this scheme?

(d) In what other ways has the supply of drinking water improved in rural areas?

(e) How many villages have benefited under the scheme?

(f) How much money has been spent so far on the scheme?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) to (f). The improvement of water supply in the rural areas is primarily the responsibility of the Provincial Governments. Government of India have not so far initiated any schemes in the matter. A statement regarding wells repaired or constructed during the past few years at the cost of Government in the Centrally Administered Areas is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XIII, annexure No. 2.)

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether the Central Government gave any grants to the provincial Governments for rural water-supply and if so, how much?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Central Government gives block grants to the provinces and they draw up their own schemes and naturally the supply of water to rural areas comes within their purview.

Shri S. Nagappa: My point was whether the Central Government bears any portion of the expenditure incurred on rural water supply by provincial governments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Block grants are given to provinces and it is open to the provincial governments to utilise them in the manner they think fit.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Have these grants been stopped for this year?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: They have not been stopped but they have been cut down.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether any demonstration teams have been invited through the W.H.O. to advise the Government of India in this matter?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir.

Shri Upendranath Barman: Are Government considering the necessity for the provision of drinking water facilities in the areas which have just come under Central administration?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already laid a statement on the table of the House as to what has been done in the centrally administered areas. Government is of course responsible for all schemes in the centrally administered areas.

Shri Upendranath Barman: I was referring to the areas that have recently come under the Centre by merger.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It follows.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: What is the total amount spent by the Government in Ajmer-Merwara on rural development during the current year?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Ajmer-Merwara requires an enormous amount of expenditure which unfortunately the Government have not been able to undertake this year.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: How much money has been spent this year in Ajmer-Merwara?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: In Ajmer-Merwara this year nothing has been spent on water.

Shri S. Nagappa: Are Government aware that in most of the rural areas water is not allowed to be used by all classes of people for reasons of caste or community? If so, what steps have Government taken to see that at least all people are allowed to take water from public wells?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

NATIONAL MUSEUM

*493. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to establish a National Museum of all publications printed in India like the one maintained in England; and

(b) if so, what steps, if any, are being taken for the proposed educational museum?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Government have before them a Scheme to establish a Central Library in Delhi with a Copyright Section attached to it. Under the Copyright Act it will receive one copy of all those publications printed in the country and registered under the Copyright Act.

(b) As long as the present financial stringency lasts it may not be possible to implement this Scheme or other schemes of this nature.

COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION

*494. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the names of the Centrally Administered Areas where compulsory primary education has been introduced in the year 1948-49?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Compulsory Primary Education was not introduced in any of the Centrally Administered Areas in the year 1948-49. In the case of Delhi, however, Compulsory Primary Education was introduced previous to 1948-49 and during this year 8 more Zails (areas) were brought under compulsion.

SECRETARIAT REORGANISATION

*495. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Central Secretariat Reorganisation Scheme was approved by the Cabinet in October, 1948?

(b) If so, has it been implemented by now and if not, why not?

(c) Are Government taking steps to safe-guard the interests of the permanent members of the Central Secretariat Service in view of the fact that during the War heavy recruitment took place in the Secretariat from outside and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) The Scheme is in the process of implementation at present.

(c) The Scheme safeguards adequately the legitimate interests of all permanent officials affected by it.

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

PALACES OF RULERS

***496. Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the residential buildings in different places belonging to the rulers of Indian States have been kept for their personal use;

(b) whether any of those buildings have been taken over either by the Government of India or by the States Governments and if so, on what conditions; and

(c) whether the proceeds, if any, out of the sale or renting of the houses will go to the respective rulers as a part of their personal income?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (c). Buildings which were being used by the Rulers for residential purposes or which were built by them out of their private funds were recognised as the private property of the Rulers concerned; the rest were treated as State property.

Some of the buildings recognised as private property of the Rulers have, however, been retained for Government purposes on payment of rent to the Rulers in some cases, and in others on condition that the buildings will be maintained by the Governments concerned for the period of their occupation. The sale proceeds of any building recognised as the private property of the Rulers will go to them.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: How many palaces are there in Delhi which are the private properties of the rulers?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are over 500 rulers and how can I say how many are the palaces of each ruler. Those palaces in which the princes reside are considered as their property.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Are there any palaces in Delhi which the Government use either wholly or partly?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are some palaces in Government use as offices.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Since as a result of the mergers large buildings which were used as state secretariats are likely to become vacant, is it proposed to utilise those buildings for relieving pressure on office accommodation in Delhi?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If it is found convenient to transfer some offices from here they can be used for the purpose. That matter is being investigated by the Works, Mines and Power.

INTER-DOMINION CONFERENCE

***497. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a news item in *The Civil & Military Gazette*, Lahore, dated 15/16 October, 1949 expressing doubts as to the possibility of further conference between the two Dominions until India accepts the present exchange value of the Pakistan rupee?

(b) Is there any substance in this reported attitude of Pakistan? If so, what do Government propose to do in this respect?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (Minister of Commerce): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As stated by my Honourable colleague the Minister for Finance in reply to Starred Question No. 67 on the 29th November, 1949, the question of holding a conference is still under discussion with Pakistan Government.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are we having any Conference in the near future?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Well, we have to live in hope.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Do Government realise that it is absolutely useless to hold Conferences with Pakistan on account of their unreasonableness?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am prepared to convey my Honourable friend's opinion to the Pakistan Government.

IMPORTS FROM PAKISTAN

***498. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether any goods have been imported from Pakistan after the devaluation of the India rupee?

(b) If so, how have these been paid for?

(c) Is any new exchange ratio to be negotiated with Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (Minister of Commerce): (a) and (b). As I said in reply to the starred question No. 203 on the 1st December, 1949, the trade between India and Pakistan has been more or less at a standstill since the devaluation of the Rupee. Apart from imports of goods purchased and paid for by Indian merchants before devaluation, some small imports are reported to have been paid for on a barter basis or by acquisition of Pakistan currency, otherwise than through the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) As stated by my Honourable colleague the Minister for Finance in reply to the Starred Question No. 67 on the 29th November, 1949, correspondence is still going on between the two Governments on the question of holding a conference to discuss the various issues arising from the Pakistan's non-devaluation decision.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are there any goods that were paid for before devaluation but that are not being delivered by the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is not a question of any goods not being delivered by the Pakistan Government, but we have received complaints that goods, particularly raw jute, that had been purchased by private parties for use in India have been detained in Pakistan.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the Government doing to get delivery of the same?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Well, we are carrying on negotiations.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the import of vegetables and other edibles which had been agreed upon by both the Governments of Pakistan and India, from Eastern Pakistan to Assam, has been totally stopped?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact, from the practical point of view there is hardly any agreement subsisting now between India and Pakistan in regard to trade matters.

Shri S. Nagappa: What is the balance of trade now, is it favourable or adverse? What was the position before devaluation and what is it now?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I think the time has not yet come for arriving at an estimate of the balance of payments position since devaluation. Prior to devaluation, for the period for which figures are available, our balance was adverse to us.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: May I know whether it is a fact that the advances paid by the Indian merchants in respect of skins and hides have been appropriated by the Pakistan merchants?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have no definite information like that, but nothing should surprise me.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Is it a fact that while the authorised interchange of goods has virtually ceased, an increasingly roaring trade by way of smuggling is going on between the two Dominions?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am prepared to accept that statement from my Honourable friend, but I have no definite information on the point.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: May I know whether a representation has been made by the hides and skins merchants of Madras that the amounts paid by Indian merchants have been appropriated by the Pakistan merchants?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have not had occasion to deal with this matter, but I shall look into it.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka: Is the Honourable Minister aware that though the official rate is Rs. 144-10-0 for Rs. 100, the private rate is Rs. 102 only?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I understand in some cases the Pakistan rupee has been quoted below the Indian rupee.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether any attempts are being made by either Government to continue the trade on a barter system?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not quite on the barter system, but we are carrying on negotiations to find out possibilities of resumption of trade on any reasonable basis.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is it a fact that in spite of Pakistan's refusal to send the goods purchased before devaluation India is sending her goods like coal and textiles?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as textiles are concerned, the Pakistan Government have by a formal notification imposed an embargo on the importation of Indian-made mill textiles into Pakistan. So far as coal is concerned, we are continuing our supplies under the old trade agreement.

Dr. Moro Mohon Das: May I know whether the Indian Government is prepared to impose an embargo on the export of coal to Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As I said, all these matters are under negotiation and I would not like to make a further statement at present as regards the details of these negotiations.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Arising out of the Honourable Minister's reply that at times the Pakistan rupee is being quoted below the Indian rupee, may I know the reasons for this low rate of the Pakistan rupee?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I think my Honourable friend can make his own surmises.

PRE-FABRICATED HOUSING FIRM

***499. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the firm which is advising Government regarding pre-fabricated houses has any experience about foamed cement mortar panels in England;

(b) if so, how many such factories they have run; and

(c) if not, why Government have permitted them to experiment in this field and gain experience at the cost of the Indian tax-payer?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). Yes. The firm has very wide experience in the development and use of foamed cement and have done considerable research work on the subject. They acted as consultants for the Aircraft Industrial Research Organisation on Housing in the United Kingdom which produced 75,000 houses in five factories. Foamed cement was used in the construction of these houses.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is this firm a consulting firm or a manufacturing firm?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Both.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that the 75,000 houses referred to in the answer of the Honourable Minister were aluminium houses and not light weight concrete houses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: They were aluminium houses in which foamed concrete cement panels were used. The foamed concrete cement for those bungalows, however, was cured by low pressure steam and hot air dried, whereas the foamed concrete which is now being used here is cured by high pressure steam which the firm consider, after making a research into this matter, to be much better. This firm was given a contract by the U.K. Government for research in foamed concrete and at the moment they are erecting the necessary plants, including two auto-claves for large scale production of foamed concrete cement panels similar to those proposed to be used here.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that the Delhi factory is the first of its kind in the whole world set up by this firm?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No. I have said that they have five factories in the United Kingdom.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know where they are situated?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Their main factory is in Slough and the others are in other parts of the United Kingdom—I cannot name them just at present.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know whether they have experience of light weight concrete houses or only aluminium houses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Both. As I have already said, foam concrete is used in the construction of their aluminium houses also.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it a fact that whereas the original estimate submitted by this consulting firm was, including the cost of drainage, etc., £10,000, they have now billed for £35,000?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would have to have notice of that question.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I know the cost of a prefabricated house consisting of four rooms, a bathroom and a kitchen?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I can tell you that the price of a two-roomed house with a bathroom and a kitchen and a court-yard is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 3,000.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether it is a fact that the six prototype houses cost Rs. 1,50,000 for the Government, and if so, how is Government prepared to give these houses at the rate of Rs. 2,800 per house?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Prototypes are rather different from what will be constructed here.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister convinced that the Central Government is being to a large extent done in by this whole process of prefabricated houses, and does not the Honourable Minister think that an enquiry is called for in the whole affair?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Most emphatically no.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that this process of light-weight concrete was known in Germany and was only taken over by this firm from there after the war?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am not aware of that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Minister's attention been drawn to a pamphlet published by the British Intelligence Objectives Sub-Committee after the war in which the process described is a German process which they have purloined from Germany?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What has that got to do with the question?

Shri H. V. Kamath: What was the original estimate submitted by this firm?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have answered this question before. The Government expenditure for setting up this factory here was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 65 lakhs.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What was the original estimate?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Rs. 65 lakhs!

PRE-FABRICATED HOUSING EXPERTS

*500. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) how many experts have been lent to Government by the consulting firm in England for the manufacture of pre-fabricated houses in India;

(b) what their qualifications and experience are;

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian engineers with equal or superior qualifications and experience are not available;

(d) how long the experts have been in India, and what work has been assigned to them in connection with the housing factory;

(e) what salaries are being paid to the experts either directly, or indirectly through the Consulting firm; and

(f) the basis for fixation of the salaries?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Two.

(b) One is a qualified Architect and Mechanical Engineer. He has been mainly responsible for the design of the "British Aluminium House" and for pioneer work in the design of prefabricated houses with foamed concrete. The other is a Cement Technologist who has specialised for years in research work and in practical tests on the particular type of foamed concrete which is used in the Government Housing Factory.

(c) The manufacture of prefabricated houses from Autoclave-cured foamed concrete is a new process so far unknown in India and there are at present no Indian Engineers with specialised knowledge of this process. The services of these two Experts were therefore obtained from the firm to help in the setting up of the factory.

(d) They have been here since July, 1949. Their work is to assist in the organisation of the factory and in the assembly of plant and machinery, and generally to give assistance in overcoming the many technical difficulties connected with the starting of a new and highly mechanised manufacturing process. They will also train the factory's Indian personnel in the process.

(e) and (f). Under the Agreement Government have to pay the firm of consultants the cost of services of the personnel sent to India at the request of Government to supervise the erection of the factory or to advise Government on technical matters connected with the production of these prefabricated houses. The Experts concerned are the employees of the firm and the basis for the fixation of their salaries is a matter for the firm. It is understood that the emoluments including allowances given by the firm to the two Experts are £1,850 per annum to the Engineer, and £1,500 per annum to the Cement Technologist.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With regard to the assembly of machinery to which the Minister has referred, am I to understand that this expert deals with the erection of machinery also?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Am I to understand that the Works Engineer, an Indian who was recently appointed, does not erect the machinery?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have said in my reply that Government has not got anybody fully trained who can do without the help of these two experts at the moment.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What exactly is the work assigned to these two experts?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: All that has been given very fully in the answers?

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether it is a fact that the services of these experts were made use of only to load wagons at an enormous cost of Rs. 1,500 per mensem for which he was sent to Bombay and asked to remain there for fifteen days?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: He had to be sent down to Bombay and if he had not been sent there, it would have been very difficult for us to get the machinery as quickly as he was able to get it. The expenditure incurred on that behalf has been audited by the Auditor-General of the Government of India.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that under the agreement executed between this consulting firm and the Government of India, the expert personnel sent by them here are entitled only to first class travel and to benefits of only first class officers of Government here, and yet they have been paid the actual cost over and above the terms of the agreement?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Nothing has been paid to them over and above what is their due according to Government rules.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How much was paid to this expert who went to Bombay to load these prototypes?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Such a detailed question need not be answered.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Because the agreement seems to have been violated; has it been broken?

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if it will be possible to make these houses available at concession rates to bachelors and newly-married couples?

Shri H. J. Khandekar: May I know how many days the experts took to unload the wagons in Bombay?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: As far as I remember, he was not there for longer than a fortnight.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Minister aware at least that under the agreement these expert personnel are entitled only to first class officers' benefits or is she blissfully ignorant of that?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Such remarks need not be made.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already replied.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will she see that this agreement is not violated in future?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Certainly.

Shri H. V. Kamath: It is for the Minister to say it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable Minister has stated that it was not violated.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I want to know how much was paid to the expert.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The details of that agreement cannot be carried in anybody's brain.

PRE-FABRICATED HOSPITALS

***501. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for the construction of pre-fabricated hospitals; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) Arrangements have been made to introduce in India the Reema System of construction and to use it, in the first instance, for the manufacture of a few standard hospital wards and nurses' quarters. If these buildings prove economically and technically satisfactory, further construction of the kind will be undertaken. The Reema System of construction is a system of pre-cast hollow concrete panels of large size joined by a special method into strong structural units suited for permanent two or three storeyed buildings.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will this construction of pre-fabricated hospitals also be given to this consulting firm who is building the factory here?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir, this contract is with another firm.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Which firm is that, Sir?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Reed & Malik.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that one Dr. Messerschmidt is coming from Germany to set up another factory here?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am not aware of it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is she aware that he is coming here for setting up a pre-fabricated housing factory?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question does not arise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Minister's attention been drawn to the reports in the newspapers last week that he is coming here at the request of the Government of India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That has nothing to do with my Ministry.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many such prefab hospitals are going to be constructed in India? Has the Government made any plans about setting up such hospitals in India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already answered that question in part (b) of my reply, that we are going to have a few standard hospital wards in the first instance.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the firm been asked to submit an estimate for these hospitals?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Naturally, before entering into an agreement every detail has to be gone into by the Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has anybody been deputed to investigate or carry on negotiations with the firm?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In the ordinary course, such questions are absolutely unnecessary. Government machinery will work.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Here it is not the ordinary course, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I don't think it is right for either the Honourable Member to put such questions or for the Honourable Minister to answer them. It is taking the time of the House unnecessarily.

Shri H. V. Kamath: But some things have gone wrong, and we want to have them set right.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nothing has gone wrong. It is open to the Honourable Member to bring particular points before the House instead of putting such vague questions.

HYDERABAD CURRENCY

***502. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hyderabad State until recently used to have its own paper currency;

(b) if so, whether this currency still circulates within the limits of the State; and

(c) what is the face-value of the Hyderabad Notes both in circulation and in stock in the currency reserve?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Osmania *Sicca* Rupees 63.77 crores (excluding Osmania *Sicca* Rupees three crores of one Rupee notes in circulation).

Lala Raj Kanwar: May I know how long the Hyderabad paper currency will continue to exist?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The matter is under investigation by the Finance Department and steps will be taken as early as possible to replace the *Siccas*.

Lala Raj Kanwar: Cannot the process of abolition of this paper currency be accelerated?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is under investigation and will be replaced as soon as possible.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the fact that Hyderabad has acceded to the Indian Union, will Government consider the desirability of introducing the new currency in Hyderabad when it is going to be introduced in India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Indian currency is in circulation in Hyderabad and it is legal tender there even today.

Shri S. Nagappa: My point is: is the Government prepared to withdraw Hyderabad currency and introduce the new currency which is going to be introduced when India will become a Republic?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have already said that the matter is under investigation by the Finance Department.

UNIFORMS OF INFERIOR SERVANTS

*503. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total cost of liveries, uniforms, and gold-lace belts, of Jamadars, orderlies, peons, and chaukidars employed under the Central Government in each of the last three years;

(b) whether this expenditure is capable of some reduction by stringent application of the existing rules on the subject or by a revision thereof; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to consider the feasibility of doing the same?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is complete.

(b) and (c). Government have recently reviewed the position and laid down certain revised scales and patterns of uniforms keeping in view their suitability and economy in expenditure. All new issues of liveries will now be made in accordance with these scales and patterns.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Do Government propose to insist that all Government servants should wear *Khadi*?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That has not yet been considered; we will consider that question.

APPLICATIONS TO REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

*504. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state how many applications have been received by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration up to date?

(b) How many have been sanctioned and for what amounts, showing what proportion of the amounts applied for has been sanctioned?

(c) Whether it is a fact that Indian engineers with equal or superior qualifications and experience are not available?

(d) How long the experts have been in India, and what work has been assigned to them in connection with the housing factory?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (Minister of Commerce): (a) 13,235.

(b) 2,868 for Rs. 3,19,43,600. The total amount applied for by these applicants was Rs. 8,58,43,300 and the average percentage of the sanctioned amount thus works out to 37.2 per cent.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to part (b) of Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man's Starred Question No. 144 given on the 4th February 1949.

(d) The average duration of period from the date of application to the date of sanction of loan has so far been about five months. Every possible effort is being made to accelerate the pace of disposal of applications. It is not possible to state the average period between sanction of a loan and its payment to borrower.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: What is the number of applications received from refugees from Eastern Pakistan? How many of these have been sanctioned and what are the amounts?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The number of applications received is 2,685. Of these the successful applications amounted to over 400. The amount covered by these successful applications was over Rs. 50 lakhs.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: How many have been rejected?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Can the Honourable Minister give that information?

An Honourable Member: It can be calculated.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: What is the reason for the remaining not having been accepted? Why is the number of successful applications so small?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I must request my Honourable friend to go through the various conditions that each application has to satisfy before qualifying for acceptance.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the longest period taken to disburse these loans?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have not got it.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What is the maximum amount and the minimum amount sanctioned for these applications?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The maximum limit, as my Honourable friend knows, for each loan is Rs. 50,000 for individuals, Joint Hindu families, firms, partnerships and private companies and Rs. 1 lakh for cooperative societies and joint stock companies.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: I want to know the amount sanctioned.

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: It should be within these limits. I have not got the individual amounts sanctioned.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the Honourable Minister aware that certain applications were granted long ago but the loans have not been advanced so far?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: I am afraid I cannot say anything definite.

PROSCRIBED LITERATURE

***505. Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what are the books proscribed in India under the orders of the Central Government (with names and dates)?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Since the 15th August, 1947, only two books namely "Behind the Iron Curtain in Kashmir—Neutral Opinion" and "The Kashmir Dispute Through Neutral Eyes" were banned under the Sea Customs Act, 1878, on the 27th August, 1949.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: May I know whether any objectionable literature has been proscribed in Bihar recently?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Bihar is not in Kashmir. I do not think it arises from this question.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: May I know the names of the authors of these books?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have not got them.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: I did not mean Kashmir alone.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I point out that question 505 is general; it does not refer to Kashmir alone. It says "books proscribed in India".

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I beg your pardon, Sir. The information is not available. I will make enquiries and supply the information to the Honourable Member.

NATIONAL INCOME

***506. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the National income of India in the years 1938-39, and 1949-50?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy (Minister of Commerce): No official computation has been made of the National income of India for the year 1938-39. The second part of the question does not arise as the year 1949-50 has not yet closed.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: May I know whether the Economic Adviser to the Government of Bombay has made an assessment of the national income of India and whether the Government of India have accepted the conclusions arrived at by the Government of Bombay?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: I do not know of any report having been made by anybody on behalf of the Government of Bombay. But I have a book dealing with this subject, the author of which is the Economic Adviser to the Government of Madras. So far as the Government of India are concerned, we have set up an Expert Committee to make the necessary computation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

INCOME TAX INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

***507. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have taken any decision on the recommendations made by the Income Tax Investigation Commission?

(b) if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy (Minister of Commerce): (a) The recommendations made by the Commission are being carefully examined by Government, and an amendment bill including such of the recommendations as are accepted by Government, is expected to be introduced during the Budget Session.

(b) Does not arise.

PEASANTRY IN STATE UNIONS

***508. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Committee has been appointed by the Government of India to enquire into the Jagirdari tenure in the United State of Rajasthan and Madhyabharat, and if so, what are the terms of reference of this Committee, and by which date the said Committee is likely to complete its enquiry and submit its Report?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes. A copy of the Resolution issued by the Government of India indicating the terms of reference of the said Committee is placed on the Table of the House. (Copy placed in the Library. See No. P-38/49).

It is expected that the Committee will submit its report before the end of the year.

HEALTH SERVICES

***509. { Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:**

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the number of appointments made in the Directorate-General of Health Services since the year 1946?

(b) What was the method of selection for these appointments?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) A statement showing the number of appointments made in the Directorate General of Health Services since 1946 is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XIII, annexure No. 3.)

(b) In the case of gazetted appointments the recruitment was made either by departmental selection or through the Federal Public Service Commission, while the Ministerial and Class IV Staff was recruited by transfer from other Departments or through the Employment Exchange and the Transfer Bureau and in some cases by departmental selection from amongst direct applicants.

HEALTH CERTIFICATES

*510 { **Sjt. Kuladhar Ghaliba:**
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that vaccination and other certificates issued to persons going to foreign countries are required to be countersigned by State Medical Officers only?

(b) If so, do Government propose to extend this privilege to Registered Medical Practitioners also?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). There is no rule to the effect that all vaccination and other health certificates issued to persons going out of India to foreign countries should be countersigned by State Medical Officers. But the Health Authorities of most foreign countries prefer health certificates which have been issued or countersigned by Government or municipal medical officers. In the case of passengers proceeding to East Africa, South Africa, Iraq and Saudi Arabia as required by the Governments concerned the certificates have to be signed or countersigned by a medical officer in Government or municipal employ. As facilities for inoculation against yellow fever exist only at certain Government institutions, inoculation certificates against yellow fever have to be signed by State medical officers.

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT OF INCOME TAX CASES

*511. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the steps taken to implement the suggestion made by him during the debate on Devaluation regarding the "voluntary settlement" with those whose cases had not been referred to the Income Tax Investigation Commission?

(b) What is the estimated amount Government are likely to realise in this manner?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (Minister of Commerce): (a) Government have been considering several schemes to give effect to the proposal to facilitate voluntary settlement of evaded tax by persons whose cases have not been referred to the Investigation Commission, but so far they have not been able to reach any final conclusion. The whole matter has been placed before the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Devaluation and their final advice in the matter is awaited.

(b) It is impossible to make any estimate.

STERLING BALANCES

*512. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the effect of the devaluation of the Rupee and Sterling in terms of gold, upon the purchasing power in the Dollar area of our Sterling balances held in London?

(b) Have any steps been taken to guard against their depreciation in value since 1st September, 1949?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (Minister of Commerce): (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the speech delivered by the Honourable Minister of Finance on the 5th October, 1949, in the House while opening the debate on devaluation.

GRANT TO UNIVERSITY OF SAUGOR

*513. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the answer given to my Starred Question No. 1265 asked on 21st March, 1949 and state whether the question of capital grant and loan to the University of Saugor then under consideration of Government in Consultation with the University Grants Committee has now been decided and whether the additional information then asked for from the Government of the Central Provinces in connection with the maintenance grant has since been received?

(b) If so, when do Government propose to hand over the grant to the University?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). The question of capital grant and loan to the University of Saugor was considered by the Government of India and the University of Saugor was informed that grants from the Central Revenues may be given to the Provincial Universities as part of the Provincial Government's Development Plans.

The information asked for from the Provincial Government was received last August, but as it was not sufficient, some more information was sent for. A reply to this has been received only on the 8th December. The scheme is now being examined.

NEWS BROADCAST re CYCLONE

*514. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the news relating to the recent cyclone disaster in the coastal districts of Andhra was ignored by the A.I.R. News Section in spite of the fact that the PTI reports had reached them; and

(b) What were the reasons for this omission?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) The Honourable Member's information is not correct. The news was promptly and adequately covered in All-India Radio news bulletins.

(b) Does not arise.

STAFF CARS

*515. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of staff cars sanctioned for each Ministry?

(b) What is the total cost of all the staff cars in the possession of the Government of India at Delhi?

(c) What is the recurring expenditure sanctioned on account of these cars?

(d) Do Government maintain a workshop for carrying out the repairs of these vehicles?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (Minister of Commerce): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House. (See Appendix XIII, annexure No. 4).

(c) Rs. 5,78,500 annually.

(d) No.

R.I.A.F. TECHNICAL TRAINING COLLEGE

***516. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to establish a technical training college for the Indian Air Force technicians;

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

(c) whether the institution will be completely staffed and operated by British personnel?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) The college started functioning in July last and is located at Jalahalli near Bangalore.

(c) No. It is staffed partly by British and partly by Indian personnel. Technical instruction is given by British instructors, as suitable Indians with the necessary technical qualifications are at present not available. General Service Training is, however, given by Indian instructors.

ACQUISITION OF LAND IN KAROL BAGH

***517. Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the answers given to my Starred Question No. 596 on 22nd February, 1949, and state:

(a) whether the land in the Basti Than-Singh-Nagar Karolbagh, Delhi, has since been acquired by Government and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that any of the plot-holders in the area requested the Delhi Improvement Trust since February 1949 to take over possession of their plots;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Improvement Trust asked any of the persons referred to in part (b) above to submit their building plans; and

(d) whether it is proposed to pass the plans without acquiring the land and if not, the reasons for asking for the building plans?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The land was acquired by Government in the Defence Ministry in 1945 under the Defence of India Rules for a wireless experimental centre but the plot-holders were not disturbed. The land has not yet been transferred to the Improvement Trust.

(b) No.

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

TUITION FEES

***518. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that tuition fees in many of the schools of Delhi have been increased?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes; Sir. From the 1st November, 1949.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday, 13th December, 1949

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock. Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

Shri B. Das: Sir, may I suggest that the Question Hour today may be suspended, so that more Honourable Members may have an opportunity of taking part in the debate on the Hindu Code.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Unless there is unanimity of opinion among the Honourable Members of the House, I am afraid this cannot be done.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The rule on this point is very definite. Sir: "That there shall be one hour for questions."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is open to all the Members of the House without exception in joining together for suspending the Question Hour. Evidently the Honourable Member whose name stands first, does not want to yield in this matter.

NIGHT AIR MAIL SERVICE

***519. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that while introducing the increase in postal rates in the last Budget Session the Honourable Minister stated that throughout the year the mails will be carried by night air service?

(b) Was the question of night flying during the monsoon considered at that time or not?

(c) Is it a fact that the Honourable Minister then stated that international air-ports in India were fit for night flying?

(d) Is it a fact that night air mail service was stopped for some time from 9th June, 1949?

(e) Has the night air mail service resulted in the expeditious delivery of mails as was originally expected?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) The Honourable Minister did not make any such statement in this House during the last Budget Session.

(b) Night flying could only gradually develop in the interest of safety. This is why passengers were not allowed at the beginning even in fair weather and the service was stopped during the monsoon. It was never thought that the service would become regular right through the year from the very start.

(c) International ports were equipped for night flying but *en route* facilities were not fully developed when the statement was made. They could only be developed gradually in the light of experience gained.

(d) Yes, but, as the Honourable Member is aware, night flying of mails has been resumed with effect from the 15th October, 1949.

(e) Yes, definitely.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Deputy Minister stated, in reply to part (a) of the question, that such a statement was not made. May I know what statement was actually made regarding the introduction of the Night Air Mail Service by the Honourable Minister?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The Honourable Member may kindly refer to the published debates of the Assembly.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to extend the Night Air Mail Service to other towns?

Shri Khurshed Lal: As I have already stated we are exploring the possibility of extending the service to other towns as soon as possible.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether during the 1950 monsoon season the Night Air Mail Service will be in operation?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Every attempt will be made to keep it in operation.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the point in saying that every attempt will be made to keep it in operation. What I want to know is whether night landing facilities at all the air ports are satisfactory so as to allow mails to be carried at night during the monsoon period as well.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: It is not yet satisfactory, but we are making arrangements and we hope that before the next monsoon the arrangements will be complete.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What percentage of the distance as well as of volume of our mails have been carried by air?

Shri Khurshed Lal: About 25 to 30 per cent. of the mails are carried by air both during the day as well as at night.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, whether any air companies have reduced their fares after the Night Air Mail Service was introduced?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Fares of certain lines have been reduced.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the introduction of the night air mail service has appreciably reduced the income from telegrams?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Not that I knew of.

Shri B. P. Jhunjunwala: Is it not a fact, Sir, that places which have no aerodromes are not served by the Night Air Mail Service with the result that letters invariably take one or two days more to reach those places?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Obviously, the Night Air Mail Service cannot be fully operative in the case of towns which have no aerodromes. Such places are served partly by air and partly by other means.

MESSAGE-RATE SYSTEM

***520. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Message-rate System for telephones has been introduced in Bombay since June, 1949?

(b) If so, what is the rate per each call and what has been the revenue derived since the introduction of this system up-to-date as against the revenue derived from the old system during the same period?

(c) Is it a fact that many complaints have been made by subscribers about the continuance of getting wrong numbers under the new system?

(d) Have Government introduced additional machinery in Bombay to relieve great tension with a view to effecting efficient working?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Yes.

(b) The rate per call is 1 anna 6 pies. The revenue derived from 16th June, 1949 to 15th November, 1949 is Rs. 38,99,000. The revenue derived during the same period in 1948 was Rs. 35,74,000.

(c) Complaints have been received, but not many.

(d) Installation of 6,400 lines began in June, 1949.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: When is the installation of new connections likely to be completed, Sir?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Part of it will be completed in about two months' time and the rest will take some time more.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact, Sir, that the message-rate system has reduced the pressure on the telephone system?

Shri Khurshed Lal: It has definitely reduced the pressure on the telephone system.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: If the pressure has been reduced, how is it that the income has increased by about three lakhs?

Shri Khurshed Lal: That comparison will not be correct. Under the old system charges were payable annually; now charges are payable monthly. Therefore, the comparison can only be with average monthly earnings of last year and in that case the income will not be so high.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: After the introduction of the message-rate system, do the subscribers use the telephone less or more?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Less.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: If it is less, how can the earnings during the period 16th June 1949 to 15th November 1949 be Rs. 38,99,000, as against Rs. 35,74,000 during the corresponding period of 1948?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: May I explain this, Sir? Before the introduction of the message-rate system one was free to use his telephone for as many calls as he liked without paying any additional amount. Therefore the average rate of call was 30 or 40. Now it has been reduced to 5 or 6.

श्री गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट : क्या मेसेज-रेट (message-rate) में कोई मिनिमम (Minimum) रक्खा है ।

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt: Has any minimum been fixed in the message-rate system?

श्री खुरशेद लाल : जी नहीं, महीने भर का चार्ज उनको देना पड़ता है।

जितनी मर्तवा वह काल करे उतना चार्ज (charge) देना पड़ता है।

Shri Khurshed Lal: No, Sir. They are charged on monthly basis. They have to pay the charges on the number of calls they make.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it the policy of the Government, from revenue point of view, to have as many wrong numbers as possible?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Refund is allowed in the case of wrong number calls.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will Government be pleased to consider reduction of the message rate from one and a half annas to one anna?

Shri Khurshed Lal: It is a suggestion for action.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it not a fact that certain responsible citizens in Bombay were presented with huge bills for the period during which their houses remained locked?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I will be glad to have that information from my Honourable friend. I have not got it.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: Is there any difference in the message rate between Calcutta and Bombay?

Shri Khurshed Lal: There is a difference.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know what is the number of telephones in Bombay and in Calcutta?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I could not give that information straightaway.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Why is there a difference in the message rate between Calcutta and Bombay?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The rates which are being charged in Calcutta and Bombay are the rates which were being charged by the companies which were operating there. We have under active consideration a proposal to equalise the rates.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Is it for Government to follow what the Companies did?

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: What time will be taken to complete this examination?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Perhaps that will be done before the Budget Session.

REFUGEE COLONY AT RAJGHAT

*521. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the refugee colony of 300 mud huts, built at Rajghat on Bela Road, has been washed away by the recent rains?

(b) What was the cost of the construction of these huts and who financed it?

(c) Was there any supervision conducted by Government during their construction?

(d) Is it a fact that a few pucca buildings constructed by Government on Pusa Road, have also in some cases been damaged?

(e) If so, how many buildings were built and what is the total loss?

(f) What steps have Government taken against persons responsible for construction of these buildings in pursuance of the Enquiry Committee Report?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) to (c). These mud huts were not constructed by Government but were put up by the displaced persons who were living in unauthorised constructions near Ajmeri Gate and who were given a grant of Rs. 100 per family to supplement their own resources while shifting to Bela Road. It is understood that some of these huts were damaged during the recent rains. Government have no information regarding the actual expenditure incurred by the displaced persons in putting up these huts.

(d) to (f) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answers given to Questions No. 108 and 424, answered on the 30th November and the 8th December 1949 respectively.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister has stated that grants were given by Government for the construction of these huts. May I know whether the Government had any supervision over the construction to see that this amount was properly spent in building houses? Was any officer deputed to do this supervision work?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No, Sir. It was paid without any condition.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What was the condition attached to the giving of this grant and what was the purpose of this grant?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: For the purpose of rehabilitating refugees whose temporary hutments were damaged by abnormal rains.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Government had any supervision after the construction of these houses?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Was it a charity?

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Regarding the enquiry that was said to be taken against the officers responsible for the construction of the buildings on Pusa Road, may I know what action has been taken against those officers who have been found guilty?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I have already answered it in a supplementary question. Those officers who have been found to be negligent are being proceeded against departmentally.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: This grant of Rs. 100 that was made to displaced persons, was it given in consultation with the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Must have been made, though it is difficult for me to say that positively now.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: To avoid duplication of work in the Rehabilitation Ministry and other organisations for the resettlement, may I know whether there was any co-ordination in this matter of housing?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am aware of these organisations, but I do not know whether these organisations were consulted before this action was taken.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: When would it be possible for this House to know the result of the proceedings against the officers referred to?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As soon as the proceedings are completed, if the House so desires, the results of the proceedings will be placed on the Table of the House.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: At what time?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: When it is completed?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How far have the proceedings proceeded?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As far as it is possible within the time till this minute.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How many persons have been thrown out of their accommodation after these 300 mud huts collapsed and what alternative accommodation has the Government provided for them?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the Honourable Member seen these quarters?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How many of these have been given new shelters?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That question should properly be directed to the Honourable Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation.

IMPORT OF WHEAT

*522. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the quantity of wheat brought from U.S.A. by *S. S. Harmac Chemainus*, *Atlantic Prince* and *S. S. Harmonac Crofton* and the price paid per ton?

(b) Is the quality of the wheat imported the same as the basic sample?

(c) Has any quantity been damaged and if so, how much?

(d) Has any complaint been made regarding the inferior quality of this shipment by those concerned in India?

(e) Were the goods insured against all risks?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) (i) *S. S. Harmac Chemainus*—9,000 tons at \$ 2.62 per bushel.

(ii) *S. S. Harmonac Crofton*.—8,850 tons of which 5,850 tons at \$2 23 7/8 cents per bushel and 3,500 tons at \$ 2.18 7/8 cents per bushel.

(iii) *S. S. Atlantic Prince*.—No such ship brought any foodgrains during 1948 and 1949.

(b) Yes.

(c) to (e). No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the wheat imported by these ships was analysed, where it was analysed and at what stage it was analysed after the unloading of the cargo?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say whether it was tested immediately after it was unloaded or at what subsequent stage, but it was tested before it was sent to the Bombay Government.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Honourable Minister's per-

sonal attention was drawn to the deteriorated quality of the wheat when it was landed from these steamers and if so, what action was taken?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: All I can say is that when it was tested, it was not found to be as deteriorated as it was made out by the Press reports.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Minister's personal attention was drawn to the deteriorated quality of this wheat and what percentage of it was actually found to be deteriorated?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I have no recollection of my personal attention being drawn to it.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Does the Honourable Minister recollect that a sample was sent by me to the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I have no recollection of that also.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I have got an acknowledgment of my letter.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How does the price of this wheat from the U. S. A. compare with that of Argentina and the U. S. S. R.?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would require notice of that question.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the Government is not prepared or willing to import from the U. S. S. R. because of the fear that that wheat might be politically contaminated?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We make no discrimination in regard to this matter.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether this wheat was cleaned before storing?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is not cleaned before it goes into the godowns.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know when it is cleaned?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: With regard to the wheat imported in these ships, it was properly cleaned before it was sent to the Bombay Government and no complaint has been received from the Bombay Government about it.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any complaint was received from the Punjab Government?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Not with regard to the wheat from this steamship.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any complaint was received from the Punjab Government with regard to any other consignment?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No complaint was received from the Punjab Government, so far as I know.

RAILWAY SALOONS

*523. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the railway saloons are given to private persons for their use?

(b) If so, under what conditions are they given and does the same practice continue now?

(c) What is the amount realised by Government from the use of saloons by private parties during the course of the current year?

(d) Have Government considered the proposal to abolish the use of saloons by Railway officials?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The use by the public of saloons for Railway officers is permissible.

(b) Charges continue to be recovered at public tariff rates. The current charges are given in Rule 102, Chapter III of the Indian Railway Conference Association Coaching Tariff (No. 14).

(c) The amount recovered during the year up to October, 1949, was Rs. 8,909.

(d) In the interests of efficiency of line inspections and outdoor supervision by the officers, abolition of the use of saloons by Railway officials is not considered expedient.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister has stated that abolition of the use of saloons is not considered desirable. May I know whether it is a fact that he gave an assurance to the C.A.C. that the matter is still under consideration? If so, which is correct?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: That consideration has been given, and the result is what is stated in this answer.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the number of saloons [649] which are in existence will all be continued or their number will be curtailed?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not think there will be any substantiated reduction in the number of saloons. We certainly have issued orders with the object of limiting the use of saloons. We shall have to see what that limitation order produces before we can decide upon the question of reduction of the number of saloons.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister has stated that these saloons will be available to private persons also. May I know the conditions for the hiring of these by private individuals and what the hire is per mile per saloon of the type used by General Managers?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I must refer the Honourable Member to the Tariff to which I have made reference in my answer.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I have not got it.

Sri Mohan Lal Gautam: Has it been brought to the notice of the Government that officers travel by one train and the O.C.S. are attached with another train and what action has the Government taken in this matter?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I have not had any such incident brought to my notice. If the Honourable Member will give me particulars, I shall certainly enquire.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that in February of this year a railway saloon was placed in Nagpur at the disposal of a police officer for the transport of his son's wedding party? The Honourable Minister of State said that he would inquire into the matter.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I should like to have notice in order to give an accurate answer. The matter has been discussed in this House already and all that has to be said in that connection has been said.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I ask whether the Minister of State who promised to enquire into this matter has concluded the enquiry or not?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are going far away from the question. This question deals with giving of saloons to private persons. How can it be answered on the floor of the House as to what happened on a particular occasion or in a particular manner?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Because, Sir, the Minister of State promised to enquire into the matter in April this year, I want to know what has happened to the enquiry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This does not arise out of this question.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know what is the cost of maintenance of these saloons?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: It varies with each saloon.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Who are the officers who are entitled to travel by the saloons?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are a number of officers.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Officers of various grades on the Railways use the saloons.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know who are the lowest grades of Railway officials who are entitled to use the saloons?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Administrative officers of all grades and I believe, even Assistant Engineers use them, but they use carriages which, I think, it would be wrong to call saloons; I should like Honourable Members to try riding in those carriages for some time.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: What is the minimum and maximum cost of maintaining these saloons?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I should like to have notice of that, Sir.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has it come to the notice of the Honourable Minister that many of these officers do not know how to use the saloons?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This question need not be answered.

IMPORTS OF FOODGRAINS

*524. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the total quantity of foodgrains imported during the period from January, 1949 to date from foreign countries?

(b) How much of this has been distributed to provinces, how much of this has arrived in various ports and which are the ports?

(c) Was the quality of all foodgrains supplied the same as the basic sample on which the contract was entered into?

(d) What is the percentage of dust and foreign stuff included in wheat and other foodgrains?

(e) Do Government themselves arrange to have wheat cleaned before stacking into godowns?

+ Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(f) What was the total shortage detected in the imports of foodgrains at the time of their arrival in India in 1948 and 1949 up-to-date?

(g) What are the cleaning, removing and storing charges?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) 3.64 million tons from 1st January, 1949 to 30th November, 1949.

(b) 3.53 million tons were distributed out of the imports to Provinces and States from 1st January, 1949 to 30th November, 1949. A statement showing the quantities received at different ports during 1st January, 1949 to 30th November, 1949, is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Mostly purchases were made on the basis of specifications and standard laid down in the contract, not on the basis of samples. The supplies received generally conformed to these specifications and standards laid down in the contract. In some cases the quality of grain landed was found to be below the contracted quality and allowances were claimed.

(d) The percentage of dirt and foreign matter averaged 0.4 per cent. in shipments of wheat from Australia, 0.5 per cent. in wheat from U.S.S.R. and Canada, 0.7 per cent. in wheat from U.S.A. and over three per cent. in wheat from Argentina and East Africa. The percentage of dirt and foreign matter was negligible in shipments of rice from Siam and averaged 0.6 per cent. in rice from Burma and one per cent. in rice from Egypt.

(e) No. Only when wheat is landed in a damaged condition or the bags contain sweepings, reconditioning and/or cleaning is done before stacking in the godowns.

(f) On the basis of available figures, the shortage at the time of landing was 0.48 per cent. in 1948 and 0.37 per cent. during the period January to June, 1949.

(g) These charges vary considerably at different ports. The charges for transport of grain from the docks to the godowns are generally about annas 8 per ton per mile and for loading into and unloading from wagons and trucks about Rs. 4 per 100 bags. The rents of storage godowns also vary depending on the location, type and capacity; on an average the rent worked out to six annas per ton per month.

STATEMENT

Quantities of foodgrains received at different ports during 1st January, 1949 to 30th November, 1949.

	(In million tons)
Bombay	1.24
Calcutta	1.09
Cochin	0.44
Madras	0.31
Saurashtra ports	0.26
Vizagapatam	0.19
Other ports (Coconada, Cuddalore, Tuticorin, Alleppy, Calicut and Marmugao).	0.11
TOTAL	3.64

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINES

***525. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many locomotive engines have been imported or are proposed to be imported from Germany?

(b) What is the price of an engine imported from Germany?

(c) What are the prices of locomotive engines imported from United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) No locomotives have been imported from Germany for Indian Government Railways in recent years nor have any orders been placed in Germany for locomotives.

(b) The present day prices of engines from Germany are not known exactly, but they are not very different from the prices prevailing in the United Kingdom and America.

(c) A statement showing the FOB/FAS prices of locomotives imported from the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America received during the past two years is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

FOB/FAS prices of imported locomotives

UNITED KINGDOM	
<i>Broad Gauge</i>	
1. XD type (Goods)	£ 13851
2. WG type (Goods)	£ 29350
3. HPS type (Pass.)	£ 19455
<i>Metre Gauge</i>	
4. Garrat (Goods)	£ 26884
CANADA	
<i>Broad Gauge</i>	
1. CWD type (Goods)	\$ 79907
2. WP type (Pass.)	\$ 129000
<i>Metre Gauge</i>	
3. YG type (Goods)	\$ 101706
U.S.A.	
<i>Broad Gauge</i>	
1. WP type (Passenger)	\$ 126250
<i>Metre Gauge</i>	
2. MAWD type (Goods)	\$ 64606
3. YG type (Goods)	\$ 101706
4. YP type (Pass.)	\$ 109550

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, whether before sending their orders to Canada and U.S.A., Government enquired whether railway engines of cheaper types and better quality can be made available from Germany?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Government makes very full enquiries; they actually invite what are called 'global' tenders before placing these orders. In fact our Chief Commissioner made enquiries in a number of other countries before placing these orders.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be kind enough to give an idea about the durability of these engines which have been sent from Canada and U.S.A.?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We have been assured of perfect durability for as long as could reasonably be expected, but we cannot give you the results of that unless the required number of years elapse.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Which other countries tendered or quoted for special engines and why those tenders were not accepted?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We have placed orders in countries from which we did receive the tenders but the number of orders placed has varied with countries. We have, for instance, in addition to the U.S.A. and Canada, placed orders in the United Kingdom and France. In other cases where tenders were received we did not place them because we did not consider it was in the interests of our Railways, we should place them there.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is there any difference in the tractive power and other services rendered by these engines imported from the U. K., Canada and United States, and if so, which are the best engines?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: These locomotives, they are manufactured according to the specifications which we sent from here. There may be difference in tractive power, but that is the result of whatever specifications we have given to them.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is a comparison possible between the efficiency of services rendered by these engines for which we have paid the same cost?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: If we make immediate comparison, these locomotives are certainly better but we have got to have the experience of a few years before we can make a really trustworthy comparison.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has any serious attempt been made by Government to obtain locomotive engines from France or Czechoslovakia?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has said it already.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The countries are not mentioned.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I said that some orders had been placed in France. We have not placed any orders in Czechoslovakia.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: What is your experience of the engines that were brought here during the war years and are they still going strong?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think so.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I enquire of the Honourable Minister if the Railway Department has received complaints from certain railway administrations that the new Canadian engines are too heavy in some portions of the existing tracks; if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to rectify that?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I would only invite the Honourable Member to tax his memory on this particular subject. The whole thing was gone into during the last Budget debate and I gave the House a full account of whatever allegations were made against these engines and how most of them were really unfounded.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I am sure the Honourable Minister knows very well that many of the locomotives came after the last Budget session and the complaint is with regard to the latest arrivals of the locomotive engines.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I have not received any recent complaints about these locomotives.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: In what manner has Government satisfied itself that the locomotives that they are buying are the best and cheapest so far as the world market is concerned?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: It is from the very best technical advice that is at our command that we have come to that conclusion.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Which countries offered to supply locomotives and the Government did not place any orders with those countries?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already answered, France. Next question.

FEMALE BUS CONDUCTORS

***526. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) the number of female conductors employed in the Delhi Transport Service; and

(b) their monthly pay including dearness allowance?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Ten.

(b) Rs. 90.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have they proved as efficient as men conductors?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Some of them have proved better and some worse.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Honourable Members will kindly bear that whichever members put these questions, he must have preference to put supplementary questions.

Shri H. V. Kamath: He did not rise.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I saw him rise, though the Honourable Member did not notice.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know how many of these female conductors have been discharged during the strike period?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I do not think any of them have been discharged during the strike period. On the whole sixteen conductors were recruited, three of them left service and the services of three female conductors were terminated for long and unauthorized absence.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Are we to understand from what the Honourable Minister said that these female conductors are capable of giving better service than the male conductors?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I have already said that some of them had given better service and some worse.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether these female conductors and drivers are given uniforms as they are allowed in other cities?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Arrangements have been made to supply uniforms to the male conductors and we are examining what kind of uniform we may give to the female conductors.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Have the Government any proposal to curtail the salaries of lady conductors in view of the fact that they refuse to shout for passengers or the names of the routes?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: No, Sir; they are paid the same salaries as the male conductors.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Is it a fact that the fares of buses presided over by female conductors are fifty per cent. higher than those conducted by men?

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know from the Honourable Minister why he felt the necessity of appointing female bus conductors? Was it to meet the convenience of female passengers or passengers of other kinds?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: To improve courtesy and manners in the bus service.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is care taken to see that no duties are assigned to these women conductors after sunset?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I do not think any complaint from any female conductor has reached us on that score.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Has the employment of female conductors in the D.T.S. been able to attract more passengers?

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: How many of these female conductors are refugees?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I would require notice, probably all.

PLANT PESTS AND PLANT DISEASES

***527. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to train personnel of different provinces in fighting plant pests and diseases?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Short courses for imparting instruction in the prevention and control of pests and diseases, are organised periodically at different centres in India, for the benefit of the personnel working in these areas. One such course was held in Nagpur in 1948 and another in Ajmer in 1949. The number of officials trained at the two places was nearly 200.

Besides this, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute conducts a one year course in Plant Protection, to which students from all parts of India are admitted. In the two years Post-graduate courses in Entomology and Mycology also, which are conducted by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, there is arrangement for advanced lectures and practical demonstration on the control of pests and diseases in the field.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether all these people trained in these centres have been employed under the Government.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They are employed by the Provincial Governments. I would not be able to say whether all of them have been employed by provincial governments.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Has every commodity committee a research laboratory with its own staff to fight plant pests and plant diseases?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will require notice.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know how much money is spent on research into this subject, annually?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I won't be able to say straight off.

POWER ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE

***528. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred by Government for the Power Engineers' Conference held in New Delhi in last February?

(b) When do Government propose to give effect to the resolutions passed by the Conference?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Rs. 6,644.

(b) A copy of the resolutions passed by the Conference is placed on the Table. Government are taking suitable action on these resolutions, as far as practicable, bearing in mind financial and other considerations. (See Appendix XIV, annexure No. 1.).

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What were the objects and reasons for which this conference was called?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The object was to secure better planning and co-ordination in the matter of implementation of the schemes finally adopted.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether the expenditure involved was debited to the Provincial accounts or to the Central account?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: This amount of Rs. 6,644 was debited to the account of the Central Government.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know what planning and co-ordination was recommended by the conference and whether their recommendation has been acted upon?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: A copy of their recommendation has been laid on the Table of the House.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: If this sum of Rs. 6,644 has been incurred by the Central Government can the Honourable Minister give us an idea of what it costs the Provincial Governments?

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

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether there was any engineer who attended this conference, from outside India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the total amount spent in travelling allowance and daily allowance of the officers who attended this conference?

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

STATE BUSES

***529. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state how many additional state buses have been run by the Central Government to relieve congestion in the Railway trains during the financial year 1948-49?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: No additional state buses were run by the Central Government to relieve congestion in the Railway trains during the financial year 1948-49.

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

TRACTORS AND AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

*530. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state how many large tractors and other machines have been made available to the agriculturists on nominal rent, and how many of such machines have been made available to the co-operative Farming societies?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The present policy of the Government of India is that mechanical cultivation operations should be carried out on a 'no profit no loss' basis and no subsidies are payable in respect of these operations. In the past two years however, subsidised reclamation of land (kans eradication) was done by means of six units of fifteen tractors each in 1948 and ten units in 1949. Half the cost of reclamation is being recovered from the cultivators and the other half is shared half and half by the Provincial and Central Governments. Some Provinces, however, have their own tractors with which they carry out cultivation operations on behalf of agriculturists and co-operative societies. A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XIV, annexure No. 2.).

WELLS

*531. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state how many new wells have been sunk in the different provinces in the financial year 1948-49 and to how many of them government aid has been granted?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The total number of new wells sunk in the different provinces during the year 1948-49 with subsidies provided by the Government of India was 34,934. A statement showing the number of wells sunk in each Province is placed on the Table of the House.

As regards the number of wells sunk in each Province without Government aid, the Provincial Governments were consulted, but they do not have the information except in U.P. where approximately 8,000 masonry wells were constructed without Government aid.

STATEMENT

Province	Number of Wells
Assam	..
U.P.	1,892
West Bengal	..
Bombay	3,511
Bihar	2,682
C.P. and Berar	4,435
Orissa	143
Madras	21,885
East Punjab	386
TOTAL	34,934

Assam and West Bengal had no schemes for sinking wells.

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

SEEDS, FERTILISERS AND MANURES

*532. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the special facilities provided to the agriculturists in the financial year 1948-49 for obtaining (i) good quality seeds, (ii) technical advice and (iii) compost, manure and fertilizers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (i) During 1948-49, the Provincial Governments formulated schemes of seed multiplication and its distribution to the farmers at concessional rates. These schemes were subsidised by the Government of India.

In order to enable Provincial Governments to distribute sufficient quantities of good quality seed-wheat which they needed, the Government of India arranged for the supplies of indigenous seed-wheat from East Punjab, U.P., Central India and by imports from Pakistan. The total quantity thus distributed was 43,417 tons.

(ii) Technical advice relating to fertilisers, seeds, compost, fisheries, plant protection and soil conservation was given by the concerned officers who toured the provinces and States.

(iii) Two statements are placed on the Table of the House enumerating special facilities afforded by the Central Government in connection with the production and supply of compost manures and fertilisers during 1948-49 (See Appendix XIV, annexure No. 3.)

IRRIGATION BY CANALS OR DAMS

*533. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the total area irrigated by canals or dams in India in the financial years 1947-48 and 1948-49; and

(b) what special efforts are being made for increasing the area under irrigation by canals?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Government both at the Centre and in the Provinces and States are doing their best to bring additional areas under irrigation. For a short-term plan small irrigation schemes including tube-well installations, are being undertaken. For a long term plan, some big river valley development projects are under construction with a view to making large quantities of water available to bring additional areas of land under irrigation.

AIR SURVEY TEAM

*534. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have asked for the services of an Air Survey team from England?

(b) If so, has the team reached India and begun its work?

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

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). The Air Survey Company of India, Ltd., Dum Dum, West Bengal, which is a British firm registered in India, is at present under contract with the Government of India for carrying out aerial photography required by the Survey of India. The company has recently brought its trained personnel in India for carrying out the work.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What are the reasons for these aerial surveys?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We are able to get a better picture of the land with all its variations, from the air.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will any Indian expert be associated with this Air Survey team from England?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We propose to associate Indian personnel as soon as we are able to get them.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Was no such Air Survey team available in India? What are the special qualifications required?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They have experience over a number of years, that is the special qualification. This is the same team which was working here during the war time. Until we get our own team, we will have to employ them.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Do we not have men of such calibre in our air services?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Air Services were asked whether they could give us the personnel and the machinery, but they could not, and so we had to avail of this team.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Was every effort made to see whether the Defence Ministry could not give the necessary help?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Defence Ministry was asked, and they could not supply the machinery or the men suitable for this purpose.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there no Indian personnel to be associated with this team?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, they will be associated, after they are recruited and selected.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Who will recruit them?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Survey of India, in consultation with the Defence Ministry.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Does the Government incur any cost in the mere association of some Indian personnel?

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What is the expenditure incurred?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: About Rs. 6 lakhs.

CENTRAL GROUND WATER ORGANISATION

*535. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that decision has been taken to wind up the Central Ground Water Organisation;

(b) whether it has been suggested to the Food Commissioner that 100 tube wells can be bored within four months with the help of three rotary rigs which have been lying idle and that for that purpose no material or technical staff need be imported and if so, the action taken on the suggestion?

(c) whether it is a fact that a conference of some expert engineers of different provinces was held in Delhi in September 1949 in which the question of boring tube wells on mass scale was discussed and a decision taken to order some rotary rigs and percussion rigs; and

(d) whether it is a fact that none of these expert engineers had any experience of the working of rotary rigs?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) No, but with a view to speed up the implementation of the food plans of provinces it was decided to hand over to the Provinces the bulk of staff and machinery, plant and equipment, etc., of the Central Ground Water Organisation to enable them to go ahead with their tube well construction programme.

(b) Such a suggestion was made but not considered feasible. The three rigs were also not available when the suggestion was made.

(c) A conference of the representatives of East Punjab, U.P. and Bihar Governments was held in September, 1949, when the question of tube well construction in these Provinces was discussed. No decision was taken to order rotary or percussion rigs. The decision taken was that the boring machines which were with the Central Ground Water Organisation should be distributed to the Provinces so that they could push on with their tube well construction programme.

(d) No.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government has plans for constructing 4,000 wells and 500 additional feeder tube wells in three years?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government had these plans.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the Ministry appointed a technical panel to go into the question of importing mechanical rigs for the purpose?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I also know whether it is a fact that this panel recommended their importation and the conclusion of an agreement with a U.S.A. firm on the basis of a tube well to cost Rs. 74,000, and the total amount worked to about Rs. 81 crores?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There was difference of opinion between the Government and the experts about the amount asked for by the company, and ultimately on account of financial reasons we did not conclude that agreement.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I want to know whether it is a fact that the officials of the Ministry, the presiding officer of the C.G.W. and the Joint Secretary serving on the panel, they were of the opinion that the agreement could be concluded at the cost of Rs. 74,000 a well?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They had come to no decision with regard to the cost. As a matter of fact the objection was that the cost was too great.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: But did they agree to Rs. 74,000?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I do not want the Government's decision. I want to know the recommendation of the technical panel, and of these officers.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I could not say it from memory. I would have to refer to the papers.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the Assistant Engineer who recently bored three wells with the help of rotary rigs gave an estimate showing that a tube well could be bored at a cost of Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It was entirely on a different basis.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What was the different basis?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The different basis was the different type of machinery to be employed.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that the cost that these engineers recommended did not go beyond Rs. 20,000 for a tube well even if sunk with a rotary rig?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not think that that was the only difference.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the C.G.W.O. during the last three years was of opinion that the rotary rigs could not be worked without the help of technical experts from the U.S.A.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Not technical assistance from U.S.A. but the feeling was that we have not sufficient trained technical personnel available in India.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: That means though not the U.S.A. other foreign experts. Is that so?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that it was on that account that all these rotary rigs which were imported at a high cost were lying idle for three years?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is a fact.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that this Assistant Engineer, who was paid Rs. 500 or less per month was able successfully to demonstrate that these rotary rigs could be worked with the help of Indian drillers who were trained under the C.G.W.O.?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think the honourable member knows the full facts about the matter as also the decision I made that that engineer should be given an opportunity to use the rigs.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that this engineer bored three wells due to the personal intervention of the Honourable Minister but even those three wells also have not been put in commission and further progress has been checked because the C.G.W.O. did not want either this engineer or Indian engineers to work these rotary rigs?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is not a fact. The difficulty was with regard to securing the machinery and for what we had to rely

upon a sister ministry, who could not get the required type of engine from outside in time.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that this tractor was available locally and it took more than nine months to negotiate its purchase through the Ministry of Industry and Supply?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I said, I am not able to answer for delays occurring elsewhere.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that this engineer has contended that if these rotary rigs were worked as a unit of two or three rigs they would give us better production and he has undertaken to dig at least 100 wells in two months time with the help of three rotary rigs but the rigs had been distributed and they are lying idle?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: He made that claim but I do not admit that there were not other engineers available who could do the same type of work.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that till the day he made the demonstration there were no engineers available in India who could demonstrate that these rotary rigs could be put to use and that even at the present moment these rotary rigs are lying idle in other provinces?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There were at the same time other Indian engineers available who immediately thereafter were able to dig the wells in a neighbouring part of Delhi province.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Why were not these engineers available earlier...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: What is the significance of the expression "sister Ministry"? Does it refer to a ministry presided over by a lady or has the Honourable Minister classified all the Ministries as feminine just as Government in the United Provinces and in Hindi is considered as feminine?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: From the replies of the Honourable Minister do I understand that the officer in charge rejected the proposal of the engineer who offered to dig the wells at a cost of Rs. 20,000 and insisted on schemes which involved a cost of Rs. 74,000 per tube well?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I said, the more costly scheme was not approved and it was rejected and there was no contract entered into.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Was it the more costly scheme that was recommended by the officer concerned in the Ministry?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I said we did not accept that scheme.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How do you explain as to why he recommended that scheme?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. More than one Honourable Member asked a question as to what the recommendation of the Panel was and the Honourable Minister only said that it was not accepted. I think further questions would have been avoided if the Honourable Minister had answered what the recommendation was. I would only ask the Honourable Minister to state what was the recommendation of the Panel.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to say exactly what the final recommendation was, I know that the matter was under consideration and the figure demanded was being disputed.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Minister satisfied that the rotary rigs can dig a well a day or a well in two days? If so, what steps are being taken by the Honourable Minister to import more rotary rigs or get them manufactured in India so that the tube well construction may be expedited?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The rigs can bore a hole in 24 hours and they may also take more time. Much depends upon the nature of the soil below the surface. But well digging does not mean only boring a hole. It means further development of the well and that requires engines to pump out the water. In regard to the manufacture of rotary rigs the matter was examined by the Ministry of Industry and Supply. It is not possible to manufacture rigs in India at the present time.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is it a fact that the officer of the Ministry who advised the ministry on the import of chemical fertilisers and tractors is also actively associated with this scheme of rotary rigs being imported from the U.S.A.?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No.

ROTARY RIGS

*536. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been suggested to the Government that rotary rigs can be manufactured in India without much difficulty and at a much cheaper cost?

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to explore the possibilities of manufacture of the same; and

(c) whether the Government ordnance factories and railway workshops have been consulted in this matter and if not, whether Government propose to do so now?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) The suggestion was examined by the Ministry of Industry and Supply who advised that the only portions of the rotary rig which could be manufactured in India were the derrick and the derrick floor, and that the remaining parts would have to be imported.

(c) No. Government will take steps in the matter.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether any private firm has offered to the Ministry to undertake the manufacture of these rotary rigs, if the Ministry would guarantee that the production would be taken by them or some little help given to them by the Government?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I have said, our Ministry is not dealing with the question of having these machines manufactured. It is the Ministry of Industry and Supply who will be able to reply to that question.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the cost of a rotary rig?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As imported from America it is about one lakh.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that the estimate given by one of these engineering firms was that these rigs could be manufactured right here at a much cheaper cost?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not know. I will require notice of that.

LAND RECLAMATION

*537. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state how much waste land has been reclaimed in each of the Provinces, States and Unions of India as a result of Food Production Drive since the decision to stop imports at the end of 1951 was taken?

(b) How much of waste land is proposed to be reclaimed under the Food Production Drive by the end of 1951 and 1954?

(c) What is the strength of Central Tractor Station and how many tractors have been distributed by the Centre to the Provinces?

(d) What is the area of waste land reclaimed by the tractors supplied by the Central Tractor Station?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). A statement showing the available information is placed on the Table. (See Appendix XIV, annexure No. 4.)

(c) The number of tractors available in the Central Tractor Organisation is 252 of which 221 are old machines. Out of the 221 old machines, 159 are working machines for reclamation and 40 for ordinary cultivation. The balance of 22 old machines, being unfit for rehabilitation, have been condemned and cannibalised. The parts of these machines are being used for repair of other old machines. Of the 31 new machines, 25 are for cultivation, three for reclamation and three for trial.

The total number of tractors distributed by the Government of India to the various Provinces and States is 534.

(d) The total area of waste land so far reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation is 1,06,975 acres.

FOOD PRODUCTION

*538. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what new administrative changes have been effected to increase food production with a view to stopping import of foodgrains at the end of 1951?

(b) What would be the annual cost of this additional administrative machinery (i) to the centre; and (ii) to the Provinces?

(c) What is the total consequent increase in the office staff grade-wise?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Administrative changes which have been effected at the Centre are—

(i) the appointment of a Food Production Commissioner, (ii) the setting up of a Special Emergency Branch in the Ministry of Agriculture under the immediate control of the Food Production Commissioner and (iii) the constitution of a Food Production Board under him. The set-up recommended to the Provinces

and States was (i) appointment of a Director of Food Production; (ii) the constitution of a Cabinet Sub-Committee on food matters; (iii) making Deputy Commissioners or Collectors in the Districts primarily responsible for food production work and for this purpose giving them the authority to co-ordinate the functions of the various Departments operating in their districts and delegating their routine duties to one of their Assistants; and (iv) creation of a small Statistical Organisation attached to the Director of Food Production.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the information in respect of the changes effected at the Centre and the additional cost involved is placed on the Table of the House. Information in respect of the Provinces and States is being obtained and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

STATEMENT

Annual cost of additional machinery to the Centre. Total increase in office staff grade-wise.	...	Rs. 50,000
	Officers	5*
	Assistants	2
	Clerks	5
	Personal Assistant	1
	Stenographers	4
	Steno-Typist	1
	Jemadar	1
	Peons	7

*Out of these five officers four are working in an honorary capacity.

NIGHT AIR MAIL SERVICE

*539. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state why a non-scheduled company has been given licence for carrying night air mail with passengers?

(b) What is the standing of the non-scheduled company i.e. Himalayan Aviation Limited, Calcutta?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) The Honourable Member is probably aware that a company becomes a 'scheduled company' only after it is granted a licence—Himalayan Aviation like all other scheduled operators, is now a 'scheduled company'—the circumstances in which licence was granted to this company were fully explained in the debates in this House on the 30th November, 1949.

(b) Himalayan Aviation is a limited company formed in May, 1948 and has since been engaged on carrying out non-scheduled air transport operations from its base at Calcutta. The record of non-scheduled operations by this company has been satisfactory.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many planes has this Himalayan Aviation Ltd. pressed into service on their night flights?

Shri Khurshed Lal: As many as are necessary.

Shri H. V. Kamath: That is hardly an answer to my question. How many have they got and how many are flying?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Four planes are flying and two are in reserve.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether any scheduled companies refused to carry air mail and if so, whether Government have considered their removal from the list?

Shri Khurshed Lal: All that was explained in the debate on the previous occasion.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are all the planes Dakotas or of a military type?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Dakota type.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know whether some were reconverted in Hindustan Aircraft, Bangalore or not?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Reconversion is for carrying passengers during the night. Whether to carry freight or passengers they are all Dakotas.

Shri S. Nagappa: This point was not explained in the debate—whether any company that refused to offer its services for night flying was removed from the Scheduled List.

Shri Khurshed Lal: If the Honourable Member will care to go through the proceedings of the debate he will find that they are fully explained there.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have these aeroplanes plying in the night service been fitted so as to carry passengers in the same manner as the Dakota planes plying by day?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Some of them still require to be so fitted.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How long will it take to convert them to the proper pattern?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: They have already got a few and I think our Aircraft Factory is doing one more. That will make all the planes fitted with seats.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Who are the principal shareholders in this Himalayan Aviation Company?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I will try to send a copy of the list of shareholders of that company to the Honourable Member.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know how many Indian pilots there are in this company?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I answered this question last time. They have twenty-one pilots out of whom nine are Indians, nine Europeans and three Stateless.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY BOARD AND PROVINCIAL ELECTRICITY BOARDS

*540. **Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Electricity Board has been constituted, if so, when and what works have been taken up by them;

(b) the provinces in which the Provincial Electricity Boards have been set up and whether any Board has effected any improvement in the generation and distribution of electricity and if so, in what manner; and

(c) whether any public-owned electric corporation has been started by any Provincial Board?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) I presume that the Honourable Member wants information about the Central Electricity Authority. If so, the Authority has not yet been constituted.

(b) No Province has yet set up any Provincial Electricity Board. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Has any Provincial Government issued any notification so far in this respect?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No notification has been issued by any Provincial Government in this regard. The difficulty in implementing this part of the Act was explained the other day while the Electricity (Supply) Amendment Bill was under discussion.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: What is the last date for the issue of the notification by the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: September, 1950.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the hitch in appointing the Provincial Electricity Board in Delhi as it is directly under the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: There is no hitch except that the present Delhi Electricity Power Authority, which is a body incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, is not willing to come in line with the directions of the Government.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What steps are Government taking to see that the Provincial Electricity Board is set up in Delhi?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Necessary steps are being taken.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that two of the Members have already been nominated and they are working and that the Board is not yet completely constituted?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Two Members have been provisionally selected and one Member will be selected in course of time. But the Board will come into existence after certain preliminaries have been done in connection with the present existing Authority.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it proposed to dissolve that body?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Some such thing.

REDISTRIBUTION OF POSTAL DIVISIONS (ORISSA POSTAL CIRCLE)

***541. Shri Yudhisthir Mishra:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any representation for the redistribution of the existing Postal Divisions of the Orissa Postal Circle, has been received for consideration by Government and if so, whether any decision has so far been taken in the matter?

Shri Khurshed Lal: (Deputy Minister of Communications): No.

Shri Yudhisthir Mishra: Do Government think it desirable to redistribute the Postal Divisions in Orissa in view of the merger of the States with the Orissa Province?

Shri Khurshed Lal: That question will be examined.

POST OFFICES (INTEGRATED ORISSA STATES)

***542. Shri Yudhisthir Mishra:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Post Offices in the integrated Orissa States have been authorised to deposit their surplus cash collections in the local Government Treasuries and if not, whether Government propose to take up the question early?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): Out of 34 Post Offices situated in ex-Orissa States 14 are already making monetary transactions with ex-State Treasuries. Orders extending the same facilities to the remaining 20 Post Offices are expected to be issued shortly.

ELECTRIC RAILWAYS

***543. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total length of electric Railways run in India and the names of lines where they exist; and

(b) whether the Government of India have any scheme for the expansion of electric railways for long distances in India and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The total electrified route mileage of Indian Railways is 235.99 miles, comprising of the following sections:

South Indian Railway.	Madras Beach to Tambaram	18.14 miles.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	Bombay to Poona and Kalyan to Igatpuri	181.05 miles.
Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway.	Bombay Churchgate to Virar	36.80 miles.

(b) Yes; such schemes are under examination.

Shri S. Nagappa: Which of the two systems work cheaper per mile?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We take good care to see that both are economic. I am not in a position to say which is cheaper.

Shri S. Nagappa: I wanted to know the comparative costs.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable Minister has no present information.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: With regard to the answer to part (b) of the question, is there any proposal before Government for investing the scheme of long-distance electrification of Railways along with the general electrification scheme in my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil's Department?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: A number of long-distance electrification schemes are under examination.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated in answer to part (b) that some schemes are under examination. May I know the schemes of which Railways have been presented to the Board?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We have received schemes, which are under examination, for a number of Railways—B.B. and C.I., G.I.P., S.I. and E.I.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is there any scheme for underground railway?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: There is a scheme, not under the auspices of the Railway Board, but I believe the West Bengal Government have got a scheme under examination.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Are the West Bengal Government competent to construct an underground railway without the knowledge of the Central Government?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I can assure the Honourable Member that the West Bengal Government have not kept it away from the knowledge of the Central Government. They have been keeping us informed.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: May I know at what stage the electrification scheme up to Chingleput in the South Indian Railway stands?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Originally there was a scheme to which the Railway Board raised certain objections. The scheme has now been revised, that is to say, a new scheme has been received which seems to promise fairly economic returns. That scheme is under active examination now.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Is there any possibility of its being taken up next year?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid not at present. We are at present unable to say whether we would be able to find money. As it is, I am afraid it may not be possible. But if it is possible to find funds we shall do it.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether the scheme of electrification from Howrah to Moghulsarai has been finalised?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: There is a scheme, but it has not been finalised.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: May I know wherefrom the E.I. Railway would get the electricity?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Electricity has to be generated, and we have got to make provision for the generation of electricity, whether it is going to be thermal plant or hydro-electric plant or the two together. All that will be examined in due course.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Is there any scheme to run electric trains between Lucknow and Kanpur?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: No. I do not think we have received any such scheme.

श्री गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट : क्या बम्बई से पालगढ़ तक इलेक्ट्रिक ट्रेन सर्विस का बन्दोबस्त होने वाला है ?

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt: Are arrangements going to be made for an Electric Train Service from Bombay to Palgarh?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable Minister cannot know off-hand about all the schemes throughout the sub-continent of India. If the Honourable Member wants to know specifically about any particular scheme he may put a question.

TICKETLESS TRAVELLING (RAILWAYS)

***544. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Government of India have made any special efforts for putting a stop to ticketless travelling on Railways?

(b) If so, on which Railways has such a drive been launched and with what results?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Yes.

(b) All Indian Government Railways have adopted special measures, suited to the area they serve. Results have been encouraging.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: What is the extent of extra revenue collected by these measures?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: From January to June, 1949, 3,291,743 passengers travelling without tickets have been detected and a revenue of Rs. 92,52,083-14-0 has been collected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

GOODS MOVEMENT ON RAILWAYS

***545. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of goods movement on different Railways in India;

(b) whether the war time priority system is in vogue even now; and

(c) on which Railways and by which date it is expected to abolish this system altogether?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The Movement of goods traffic on the Broad Gauge Indian Government Railways is more or less free except for a few limitations necessitated by the limited capacity of certain junctions and transshipment stations. The position on the M.G. Railways has lately improved appreciably and further improvement is expected.

(b) The war-time priority control over the movement of goods traffic has been completely suspended on the M. & S.M. and E.P. Railways and partially on the E.I. Railway; on most of the other Railways also the need for priority assistance is seldom, if at all, necessary.

The Regional Railway Priority Organisations have consequently been merged with the respective Railway Administrations, but the Central Organisation continues.

(c) It would depend upon the rate of further improvement and consolidation of the improvement already achieved.

DISMANTLED LINES AND NEW LINES (O.T.R. & E.I.R.)

***546. Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the dismantled railway lines between Farbisganj and Raghupur on O.T.R. in Bihar and the adjacent trade centres were inspected and surveyed during November, 1948 by Government?

(b) If so, what was their report in the matter?

(c) Did they recommend reconstruction of this line?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, have Government taken any further action in the matter?

(e) Do Government propose to construct a new line joining Murliganj to Madhipura on O.T.R. in Bihar and if so, have Government taken any action in the matter?

(f) Do Government propose to reconstruct the dismantled line between Bhagalpur and Baunsi on E.I.R. (Bihar) and to extend it towards Deoghar side?

(g) If the answer to part (f) above be in the affirmative, what action have Government taken in this matter?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Yes.

(b) The Report was that the line will have to cross numerous dead and flowing channels of the Kosi river and will involve heavy bridging. Even then on account of the instability of the Kosi river anything beyond a fair weather connection could not be ensured.

(c) The O.T. Railway stated that the construction of a Railway line in the area could not be recommended until a barrage had been built on the Kosi and the river controlled.

(d) In view of the reply to part (c), the question does not arise.

(e) The Central Board of Transport have decided that the case for the construction of this line should be reviewed when first stage of the Kosi Multipurpose scheme is sanctioned.

(f) and (g). The Central Board of Transport consider that there is no justification for the restoration of the line between Bhagalpur and Mandarhill, but that the General Manager, E.I. Railway should discuss with the Provincial Government and report whether there were any valid grounds for reconsidering the matter. The General Manager's Report is awaited. There is no proposal to extend the line towards Deoghar side.

IMPORT OF FOODSTUFF

***547. Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether there has been any change in the policy of the Government that the import of foodgrains will be totally stopped after the year 1951, since this policy was announced?

(b) Have Government got any estimate of the expected increase in production of foodstuff as a result of proposed extensive and intensive cultivation which is to be taken up under the supervision of the newly appointed Food Commissioner for the year 1950?

(c) If so, how much is it?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Yes. An additional production of about 28 lakh tons has been estimated from extensive and intensive cultivation schemes during the year comprising the *khari* and *rabi* crops sown in 1950.

COMMODITY COMMITTEE (AGRICULTURE)

***548. Shri Satish Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state how many commodity committees are there under the Ministry of Agriculture?

(b) How many of them are self-supporting by meeting their expenditure from the cesses they realise and have they any other sources of income?

(c) How much subsidy has been given and to what committees in the year 1948-49?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Eight.

(b) and (c). Four Committees *viz.*, Cotton, Coconut, Oilseeds and the Lac Committees are financed by cesses levied under the provisions of the respective Acts constituting them. They have so far been able to meet their normal expenditure from the cess collections, except the Cotton Committee to which special grants from the 'Cotton Fund' under the control of the Ministry of Industry and Supply, have also been made from time to time particularly for financing Development Schemes. These Committees have no other sources of income.

The other four Committees, namely, the Jute, Sugarcane, Tobacco and Arecanut Committees are financed by special grants sanctioned by the Central Government.

No grant during 1948-49 was made to the Arecanut Committee as it has been constituted only a few months ago. The three other Committees have had the following grants during 1948-49:

Name of the Committee.	Grant-in-aid.
The Sugarcane Committee.	Rs. 12,50,000/-
The Tobacco Committee	Rs. 10,00,000/-
The Jute Committee	Rs. 10,00,000/-

TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES FROM DELHI

***549. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government of India to relieve congestion in Capital of India by shifting some of the unimportant offices to places outside the Province of Delhi?

(b) What places have been or are being considered suitable for this purpose and has any survey been made of such places?

(c) What is the Report of such survey and what offices are expected to be moved out from Delhi and by which date?

(d) Are Government aware that by the declaration of Jaipur as the Capital of Rajasthan and centralisation of most of the Secretariat offices formerly located at Alwar, Jodhpur, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Bikaner and Udaipur, a large amount of space for offices and residential accommodation is available at these places?

(e) If so, do Government propose to consider the advisability of utilising the accommodation rendered surplus at these places, some of which are not very far off from Delhi?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) to (e). With a view to relieving congestion in the Capital, Government are considering the question of moving some of their offices out of Delhi, and for this purpose, a survey of the accommodation available outside Delhi, particularly in the Capital of States, which have since been formed into Unions or merged with Provinces, was recently conducted by an officer on special duty. A statement showing the places so far surveyed by him and the accommodation reported to be available at each, is placed on the Table. (See Appendix XIV, annexure No. 5.)

Bikaner and Udaipur referred to in clause (d) of the question have not so far been surveyed. It is proposed to utilise the available accommodation, by moving as many offices as possible out of Delhi. The question as to which offices should actually move is at present under consideration, and a decision is expected to be taken shortly.

ASSAM LINK PROJECT (RAILWAYS)

*550. **Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the probable date of opening of the new Assam Railway Link?

(b) How long do the Government of India propose to allow the Government of Pakistan to control and supervise the Railway line, in Indian Union, passing through Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri and Siliguri and connecting Calcutta?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The carriage of goods traffic over the Assam Rail Link has just commenced, and it is hoped that passenger traffic will also begin to be carried over this line by the end of January, 1950.

(b) Under the existing agreement, the working of this section can be taken over only after giving six months' notice to the Pakistan Government and the question of giving such notice will be considered after the Assam Rail Link is in full operation.

WHEAT FROM U.S.A.

*551. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state what quantity of wheat is U.S.A. going to sell to India this year and in the coming year?

(b) Is it a fact that the wheat in Argentina, Australia and Russia is cheaper than that of U.S.A.?

(c) If so, what is the reason for purchasing wheat from the U.S.A.?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) During the current year 344,000 tons of wheat have been imported from the U.S.A. upto July. No further purchases have since been made, nor are contemplated during the remainder of 1949 or in 1950.

(b) Wheat from the U.S.A. has sometimes been more costly than from other sources.

(c) It has been necessary in the past to buy wheat from U.S.A. as our requirements could not be met in full from other sources.

GROW MORE FOOD SCHEME

*552. **Shri Upendranath Barman:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what were the targets of Grow More Food Scheme under (i) reclamation of waste lands; and (ii) tube-well irrigation?

(b) What are the areas which have been brought under cultivation under the respective heads, giving the figures, province by province and year by year?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) It is not clear if the Honourable Member is referring to the land reclamation programme and tube-well programme of the Provincial Governments or the Central Government. So far as the Central Government is concerned the information is as follows: 1947-48—60,000 acres and 1948-49—88,000 acres.

So far as the Provincial Governments are concerned replies from some Provinces have not yet been received. After complete information is received it will be laid on the Table of the House.

The programme for the construction of tube-wells has been left to the decision of the Provinces.

(b) The areas reclaimed and brought under cultivation by the Central Government are as follows:

	Province	Acres
1947-48	U.P.	25,077
	C.P.	7,454
1948-49	U.P.	20,600
	C.P.	39,247
	E. Punjab	6,450
	Madhyabharat	5,200
	Delhi	1,921 (1948 up to Rabi 1949) and 1,026 (from Rabi 1949 to 12th Nov. 1949).

Information regarding the areas which have been brought under cultivation by the Provinces and States will be placed on the Table of the House after complete information is received.

It may be mentioned that the reclamation programme depends on machinery imported from abroad and therefore its progress is not entirely under control.

TRAVELLING BY RAILWAYS

*553. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there has been any decrease in the number of passengers travelling over the Indian Railways, due to the introduction of parallel roadways by Provincial Governments at various places?

(b) If so, what is the estimated loss of revenue for each of the past three years?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to counter this loss of revenue?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) In a few areas there has been an insignificant decrease in the number of passengers travelling over the Indian Railways which may be attributable to the taking over of road transport by Provincial Governments. In others in which Provincial Road Transport operates, there has been an increase. On the whole there has been an increase.

(b) The question of loss of revenue as such does not, in the circumstances, arise.

(c) In the matter of possible competition on parallel routes leading to losses of revenue in future, Government's policy is to co-ordinate rail-road services to the maximum extent possible.

TUBE-WELLS

*554. **Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the number of tube-wells bored during the current financial year?

(b) Have the provinces utilised the money advanced to them by the Government of India for Tube-well Schemes?

(c) Do the Government of India or the provincial Governments supply material and technical help to the cultivators for boring tube-wells?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) During the period in question, 17 tube-wells were sunk by the Central Government as part of the training of the Central Drilling School trainees. Information regarding the number of tube-wells sunk by the Provincial Governments during this period is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

(b) The subsidies sanctioned for tube-well schemes in previous years have been utilised in full by the Provincial Governments concerned.

(c) The Government of India do not supply any materials to the cultivators for sinking tube-wells. Technical advice is however, given whenever requests are received. The Government of India also assist the Provincial Governments in the procurement of machinery and stores for tube-well construction and with technical advice. Information regarding technical help given by Provincial Governments to cultivators has been called for and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT

***555. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any estimate of the total area of land which is likely to be acquired for the Hirakud Dam Project;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above, be in the affirmative, what is the area of cultivated and cultivable land which has already been acquired and which is still to be acquired for the Hirakud Dam Project;

(c) the number of persons who have already been displaced and who are still to be displaced from their lands and homes by the project; and

(d) the number of houses which have already been acquired and which are still to be acquired for the above project?

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

(b) According to the present estimates the total area of land to be acquired for the Hirakud Project is 80,000 acres of cultivated and 51,700 acres of cultivable area. An area of 10,124 acres only has so far been acquired; of this 5,532 acres is cultivated, 3,655 acres cultivable and 937 uncultivable.

(c) The number of persons to be displaced according to the last census is reported to be about 91,400. No body has so far been actually displaced.

(d) 21,650 houses are likely to be acquired. Out of these, only eight are reported to have been acquired so far; which were all uninhabited.

GRAM AND GRAM DAL

***556. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state how much approximate surplus of gram and gram dal was estimated in East Punjab and PEPSU during 1948 and 1949?

(b) How much of it was removed to the areas of allocation?

(c) How much of it was allowed to remain in the *mandis* of PEPSU and East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) 1,32,000 and 2,22,000 tons gram and gram products were declared as surplus by East Punjab and PEPSU Governments respectively during the year 1948-49. During the current year

(1949-50) the East Punjab and PEPSU Governments have so far offered surpluses of 70,000 tons and 60,000 tons respectively.

(b) In the case of East Punjab the entire 1948-49 surplus was despatched. Out of the current year's surplus also over 34,000 tons have already moved.

As regards PEPSU a total quantity of 1,63,000 tons was allotted and practically the whole of this quantity has been despatched to the deficit areas; the balance quantity has been carried over into the Basic Plan for 1949-50. A total quantity of about 30,000 tons has moved from the current year's allotment.

(c) Apart from the carry-over of a little over 50,000 tons in PEPSU from last year's stock to the Basic Plan for 1949-50, which carry-over has been allotted to deficit areas along with 1949-50 surpluses, there was no other quantity of old crop gram left in PEPSU or East Punjab.

RAILWAYS IN KUTCH

***557. Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the programme, if any, for the improvement and expansion of the Railways in Kutch, and at what stage is the said programme to-day?

(b) What are the plans, if any, for connecting the Kutch railway system with the principal Railways so as to link that region (Kutch) with Delhi, Ahmedabad and Bombay?

(c) What stage the implementation of those plans, or any of them, has reached?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) There is no such programme at present.

(b) It is proposed at present to connect Kandla with Deesa by a Metre Gauge line and further connections will be considered later.

(c) Work on the construction of the Metre Gauge line between Kandla and Deesa has commenced.

DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAYS

***558. Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how far, to what extent, and in what way, has the present financial stringency affected the plans for Railway development and expansion, giving details of the several projects dropped, slowed down, or held over?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Due to the present financial stringency, the capital programme of Rs. 64 crores for the current year has been reduced by Rs. 6.75 crores, and the programme for next year will be curtailed still further. An approximate reduction of 20 per cent. has been made in the allotment for construction of new lines and other development works. All development schemes have been reviewed and only those which are urgent or inescapable are being undertaken. No project has been dropped. The various important projects slowed down or held over are indicated in the list placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (1) *Projects slowed down.*—
 (i) Doubling between Budni and Barkhera on the G.I.P. Railway.
- (2) *Projects held over.*—
 (i) Barwadih-Sarnadih construction.
 (ii) Construction of a bridge over the river Ganga at Mokameh.
 (iii) Provision of a high level bridge over the Mahi river at Sevalia.
 (iv) Construction of new lines between Bhaili and Bhadrin, Sojitra and Dholka, Vajapur and Ransipur, etc., commenced as a famine relief measure by the Baroda State before its merger with Bombay Province.
 (v) Construction of a line between Kantabanji and Sambalpur.
 (vi) Construction of a line between Rampur and Lalkua.
 (vii) Construction of a line between Theni and Gudalur.
 (viii) Restoration of the dismantled line between Bijnor and Ghandpur Siau.

LOANS FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

***559. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what were the loans applied for from the International Monetary Fund or International Bank for food and other agricultural production since the decision for self-sufficiency in food by 1951 was taken by Government?

(b) What loans from any International Organisation have been sanctioned which directly or indirectly assist food production?

(c) If any loans have been refused, what is the anticipated effect of the refusal on our self-sufficiency?

(d) Has there been any change in the scheme for diverting land under commercial crop to food production as a result of stoppage of jute and cotton from Pakistan following devaluation of the rupee?

(e) How does the decision referred to in part (d) above affect the self-sufficiency in food programme?

The Honourable Shri Jai Ramdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). No application has been made to the International Monetary Fund for loans for food or other agricultural production schemes. In so far as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is concerned an application was made for a loan of ten million dollars for the purchase of equipment for Kans Grass and Jungle clearance Projects and this has been sanctioned by the Bank.

(d) and (e). During the war there was a determined effort made by putting up special schemes to divert the area under cotton and jute to food crops. These schemes were discontinued later and at the time of devaluation there was no scheme for diverting land under commercial crops to food crops. Since devaluation, however, the importance of becoming self-sufficient in cotton and jute also has been realised, and steps have been taken to that end without affecting the programme of self-sufficiency in food.

MICA PRODUCTION AND MICA GOODS

***560. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

- (a) the value of the raw mica exported from India during the past year;
 (b) the quantity and the value of the manufactured mica goods imported into India, during the same period;

(c) whether Government are aware of the necessity of encouraging the industries using mica in India; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in this respect?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Practically all the mica exported from India is exported after dressing, in the form of blocks and splittings. The value of the mica exported during the year 1948-49 was Rs. 592.4 lacs.

(b) Mica is used in making micanite, the imports of which are of negligible value; also in various electrical appliances and machinery, but their number and range is so large that it is not practicable to compile figures showing the total quantity or value of the imports.

(c) There are at present no industries in India using mica. Government appreciate the necessity of encouraging the setting up of such industries.

(d) The Mica Committee appointed by the Provincial Development Board of the Government of Bihar have recommended the establishment of a factory for the processing of mica mined in Bihar, which is the main producer. In pursuance of the above recommendation, the Government of Bihar have suggested that the Central Government should carry out an expert technical survey of the project. The implications of the project are now under the examination of the Government of India.

B. B. LIGHT RAILWAY IN PATNA

***561. Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the travelling public is dissatisfied with the management of the B. B. Light Railway in the District of Patna in Bihar and that deputation waited on the Honourable Minister in this connection only recently?

(b) Is it a fact that all the engines belonging to the Company are old and unserviceable?

(c) What steps are being taken by Government in the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Complaints to this effect were made by the deputation which recently waited on me.

(b) A recent report from the Government Inspector of Railways who inspected the railway in March last does not confirm the statement that the condition of the engines and rolling stock or the position generally is as stated by the deputationists.

(c) The B.E.L. Railway is owned not by the Government but by a private company; and the Government of India exercise the function of the "Safety controlling authority" under the Indian Railways Act, 1890 in respect of safety regulations, rates and fares of traffic, etc. As a first step the complaints made by the deputationists have been referred to the General Manager. On receipt of his reply, the Government of India will take necessary remedial action.

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINES IN BIHAR

***562. Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to connect Murliganj station of the Katihar-Murliganj line with Madhepura of Saharsa-Madhepura line in North Bihar? Is it a fact that the proposed length of the line, viz., fourteen miles has already been surveyed, if so, what is the cause of the delay in constructing the line?

(b) Is it a fact that the Madhepura Sub-division and also the other parts of the District of Saharsa are Jute-producing areas of Bihar? Is it also a fact that the construction of the line will improve Jute trade of this country?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As the area is liable to flooding by the river Kosi and it would not be possible to maintain even a dry weather rail link should the line between Murliganj and Madhepura be laid unless large sums of money were spent year after year on works to be washed away every monsoon, the Central Board of Transport decided that the case for the project should be reviewed, when the first stage of the Kosi Multipurpose scheme is sanctioned.

(b) The Bihar Government pointed out recently that the area has taken to jute growing after the partition of India and that growing of this crop will be materially aided by such a Railway line.

DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAYS

(CHHOTA-NAGPUR DIVISION AND SANTHAL PARGANAS)

***563. Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there are proposals to construct new railway lines in the Chhota-Nagpur Division and Santhal Parganas in Bihar and if so, what are the proposals?

(b) Is it a fact that there is a proposal to connect directly Ranchi with Patna and Hazaribagh with Deoghar and if so, what is the present position regarding the proposal?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The following proposals lying wholly or partly in the Chota Nagpur District and Santhal Parganas in Bihar are under consideration:

- (1) *New line projects.*—
 - (i) Tori-Birmatrapur.
 - (ii) Hazaribagh Road—Giridih.
 - (iii) Barwadih—Bijuri.
 - (iv) Garwa Road—Manikpur.
- (2) *Restoration.*—
 - (i) Tinpahar—Rajmahal.

Some work on the construction of the first 40 miles between Barwadih and Sarnadih of the Barwadih-Bijuri project has already been done.

(b) The proposal to connect Ranchi with Patna through a new broad gauge line between Ranchi and Gaya has been carefully examined but dropped by the Central Board of Transport. There is no proposal for direct connection between Hazaribagh and Deoghar, but there is one to connect Hazaribagh Road with Giridih, Deoghar being already connected to Giridih by an existing line. The Central Board of Transport have, however, decided that the Hazaribagh Road—Giridih Project should be dropped for the time being, and that if the Bihar Government made out a strong case for this connection, the position should be reconsidered in the future when the financial situation may be easier.

PRICE OF PULSES

***564. Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the price of pulses has gone down after the removal of ban against the inter-provincial movements of pulses? If so, are Government considering the desirability of removing the ban on the movements of all other kinds of cereals also?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is true that the price of pulses has gone down after decontrol. The Government do not propose at present to decontrol other cereals.

NEW POST OFFICES

***565. Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Post Offices opened in the Country in the years 1948 and 1949 separately; and

(b) whether the number of workers proposed to be retrenched could not be absorbed in the present staff because of the gradual expansion and increasing volume of work?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) One thousand nine hundred eighty seven and three thousand six hundred forty-nine in 1948 and 1949 respectively.

(b) Every effort is made to absorb such of the staff which comes under retrenchment as is Departmental. But as the great majority of new post offices are opened in rural areas and they are manned by extra-departmental agents, Departmental staff cannot be employed there.

DELHI RENT CONTROL ACT

***566. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state how many cases for the fixation of fair rent have been filed before the Rent Controller under the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947?

(b) How many of such cases have been decided by the Rent Controller?

(c) How many appeals have been filed against the decision of the Rent Controller by (i) tenants and (ii) landlords?

(d) How many of such appeals have been decided by the District Judge up till now?

(e) Is it a fact that most of the appeals are pending before the District Judge for over a year and there is a great congestion of civil cases in the court of the District Judge?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) 663.

(b) 501.

(c) (i) Tenants—93, (ii) Landlords—185.

(d) 93 upto November, 1949.

(e) Only nine such appeals are pending for over a year. I am however prepared to take it from the Honourable Member that there is congestion of civil cases in the court of the District Judge.

RE-ORGANISATION OF RAILWAYS

***567. Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state when Government propose to take final decision on the re-organisation of Railways? Have the Committee appointed for the purpose submitted its report?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The whole question is under active consideration and every effort will be made to avoid delay in obtaining the report or in taking a decision thereon.

GOODS TRAFFIC BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIAN RAILWAYS

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

(a) the total amount of "paid-traffic" and "to-pay-traffic" of goods booked between Pakistan Railways and Indian Railways by goods trains during the period from 1st January to 30th September 1949; and

(b) whether the Government of India have been receiving complete accounts of their share of earnings out of the goods traffic referred to in part (a) above; if not, what action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Paid traffic: From Pakistan Railways to Indian Railways—Rs. 46 lakhs. From Indian Railways to Pakistan Railways—Rs. 48 lakhs.

To-pay traffic: From Pakistan Railways to Indian Railways—Rs. 151 lakhs. From Indian Railways to Pakistan Railways—Rs. 153 lakhs.

(b) No. The matter is being actively pursued with the Government of Pakistan who have assured us that the account of all Inter-dominion traffic will be up-to-date by the end of this year.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

***569. Shri S. M. Ghose:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any directive to the Damodar Valley Corporation to give preference to East Bengal displaced persons with respect to appointments and contracts under the Corporation;

(b) if so, how many East Bengal displaced persons have up till now got appointments and contracts; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of issuing such directives as indicated in part (a) above?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No.

(b) (i) The number of displaced persons employed by Damodar Valley Corporation from East Bengal is shown below:

<i>Technical</i>	
Officers	12
Subordinate staff excluding Grade IV	104
<i>Non-Technical</i>	
Officer	1
Subordinate Staff except Grade IV	133
	250

(ii) Contracts are awarded on the basis of competitive tenders.

(c) Government do not consider it necessary to issue any directives to the Corporation on the point raised.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

***570. Shri S. M. Ghose:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economy measures will affect the progress of the works of the Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) if so, in what manner;

(c) whether the Corporation will be provided with the money they require this year and the next financial year; and

(d) whether any reduction of staff is contemplated by the Corporation, and if so, to what extent?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). Yes to a certain extent by slowing down the pace of expenditure and by readjustments, inevitable under any economy measures.

(c) The requirements will be met to the extent funds are available.

(d) It is understood that no reduction of staff is at present under contemplation; but the decision will ultimately depend on the funds made available under (c) above.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CENTRAL GROUND WATER ORGANISATION

11. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of expenditure incurred on the Central Ground Water Organisation on salaries, allowances, etc., since its formation upto the 30th September, 1949;

(b) the capital amount invested in rotary rigs, percussion rigs, air-compressors, welding sets, casing pipes, etc., upto 30th September 1949;

(c) the amount invested including the running cost in the workshop attached to the Central Ground Water Organisation; and

(d) the equipment which the workshop contains and the work done by the workshop since its inception.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House (See Appendix XIV, annexure No. 6).

(c) and (d). There was no regular workshop attached to the Central Ground Water Organisation. The work of assembling, overhauling and minor repairs of the drillings rigs and other equipment was being done at the Central Stores at Dhandhera. The details regarding the small machinery and tools used for this purpose are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

ROTARY RIGS AND PERCUSSION RIGS

12. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rotary rigs and the percussion rigs which Central Ground Water Organisation possesses;

(b) the number of tubewells sunk by each class of rigs so far since 1946 and how many of those tubewells are functioning;

(c) the number of persons trained for rotary drilling and diplomas, if any, issued to such trainees; and

(d) whether it is a fact that all the three rotaries were kept idle all along?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Three Rotary rigs and thirteen percussion rigs were in the possession of the Central Ground Water Organisation on the 30th September, 1949.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House showing the number of tubewells completed by each class of rigs as part of the training of Central Drilling School trainees and the number functioning at present.

(c) 39 trainees received partial training in rotary drilling. The question of issuing certificates of efficiency to them did not arise as their training could not be completed.

(d) Largely.

STATEMENT

Number of successful wells constructed in the course of training and number functioning at present.

Class of Rigs.	Number of successful wells.	Number of wells functioning
(i) 22 W. .	32	7
(ii) 33 W. .	18	10
(iii) 71-P Star .	6	1
(iv) Failing Rotary No. 55	10	4
	66	22

BORING OF TUBEWELLS WITH ROTARY RIGS

13. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman and other high officials connected with the Central Ground Water Organisation, held and expressed the opinion that rotary rigs could not be worked by Indians and it was due to this that these costly rigs were kept idle;

(b) what efforts, if any were made to procure technical staff from foreign countries to run these rigs and with what results;

(c) whether it has been recently demonstrated that rotary rigs can be successfully worked by ordinary Indian Drillers and that under the supervision of an assistant engineer three tubewells have actually been bored recently in Delhi Province;

(d) whether the actual time taken in boring and completing these tubewells was less than fifty hours; and

(e) if so, whether Government have made any plans to undertake boring of tubewells with the help of rotary rigs on mass scale and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) Efforts were made since 1946 to recruit expert drilling engineers from abroad through the Indian Supply Mission, Washington and the High Commissioner for India in London. One Engineer was actually appointed in January, 1947, but he was invalided from service in May, 1947. Further efforts were made but these were not successful as expert drillers were in great demand by oil companies all over the world.

(c) With the help of rotary rigs, six bores have recently been made in the Delhi Province under the supervision of an Assistant Engineer, one bore by another Assistant Engineer and two more under the supervision of an Executive Engineer. The drillers employed on these operations had been trained in mechanical drilling at the Central Drilling School and some of them had acquired partial knowledge of rotary technique during that training.

(d) No. The drilling might have taken the time mentioned, but for completing a well by fully developing it, it generally takes an additional three to ten days.

(e) Though a well cannot be completed in fifty hours even when a rotary rig is used, the quickest means of constructing tubewells is by the use of such a rig. A programme for the construction of a large number of tube wells mainly with the help of mechanical rigs including rotary rigs is under the consideration of the Central and Provincial Governments.

TUBE WELLS AND FEEDER TUBE WELLS

14. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India had drawn up a scheme for construction of 4,000 wells and 500 additional feeder tube wells to be constructed in three years, with the help of mechanical rigs;

(b) whether negotiations in this connection were almost concluded with an engineering firm called Johnston International of U.S.A. and the Technical Panel consisting of some Chief Engineers of provinces and the Joint Secretary of Agriculture, had recommended the placing of an order with the said firm at a cost of over thirty crores of rupees which worked out at an average of Rs. 74,000 per tube well and about one lakh and forty thousand per feeder tube well;

(c) whether one of the conditions of the contract and recommendations of the Technical Panel was that Government would also have to take over 6,400 tons of casing pipes along with all other tools and installation equipment at additional cost;

(d) whether it is a fact that according to the estimates submitted by the Assistant Engineer who recently bored three tube wells with a rotary rig, the cost per tube well was below Rs. 20,000 per tube well;

(e) if so, whether this estimate was referred to the Technical Panel and its opinion taken on same;

(f) whether any enquiry was held and reasons found out for the big difference in the prices recommended by the technical panel and the estimates submitted by the Assistant Engineer concerned and if not, why not; and

(g) whether it is a fact that negotiations with the U.S.A. firm have since been abandoned, but fresh negotiations for constructing tube wells have now been opened with some British Firms?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A programme for the construction of 4,000 tube wells and 500 feeder wells, mainly with the help of mechanical rigs, in the U.P., East Punjab and Bihar in the course of three years has been under the consideration of the Government of India.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise, as no contract was entered into or negotiated with the firm.

(d) Yes.

(e) No. It was not a function of the Panel to scrutinise such estimates.

(f) No prices were recommended by the Technical Panel. The question of holding any enquiry does not, therefore, arise.

(g) No negotiations were undertaken with the American firm. The proposals of some U.K. firms for the construction of a large number of tube wells before the end of 1951 were considered, but could not be accepted as it was decided to postpone the execution of the work.

KUTCH STATE RAILWAY

15. Prof. K. T. Shah: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of locomotives, with their age and condition, on the Kutch State Railway;

(b) the number and age of passenger coaches on the same Railway;

(c) the number and age of the goods wagons on that Railway;

(d) the gauge and total length of the Kutch State Railway; and

(e) names of other Railways with which it is connected?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) to (c). A statement giving the information required by the Honourable Member is placed on the Table of the House. Two new locomotives not included in the statement are expected to be received by the railway during January, 1950.

(d) The gauge of the Kutch State Railway is 2'6" and its total length is 72 miles.

(e) At present the Railway is not connected by rail with any other Railway system.

STATEMENT

Number of locomotives on Kutch State Railway with their ages and condition.

Number on line	Age	Condition
6	2—41 years.	Bad condition—2
	2—36 years.	Fair Condition—1
	2—26 years.	Good condition—3

Number and type of coaches and wagons on Kutch State Railway

Type of stock	Number on line	Age
Coaches.	14	5—40 years
		8—20 years
		1—12 years
Wagons.	65	32—40 years
		33—20 years

KANDLA PORT

16. Prof. K. T. Shah: Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state the quantity of imports to and exports from Kandla the principal seaport of Kutch in the year immediately preceding the War (1938-39), in the middle of the War (1941-42), at the end of the War (1945-46) and in each of the years since then i.e., for the years 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table.

STATEMENT

Quantity of imports and exports through the Port of Kandla in the year preceding the war, in the middle of the war and in the years thereafter.

Years	Imports tons	Exports tons
1938-39	24390	12250
1941-42	27261	16426
1945-46	8405	30049
1946-47	9227	36205
1947-48	33498	51262
1948-49	39162	65857
1949 (up to November)	37204	66497

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Wednesday, 14th December, 1949

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

BAHAWALPUR PALACE IN NEW DELHI

*571. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Nawab of Bahawalpur (Pakistan) has a palace in New Delhi and if so, what is the position with regard to that palace at present?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): Bahawalpur House in New Delhi is now occupied by the American Embassy. That Embassy wish to have a perpetual lease of the property and negotiations for this purpose are in progress.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether during the negotiations the Nawab wanted to purchase this building at any stage?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: No, Sir.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know how many years lease is likely to be executed?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The land is on perpetual lease and the house is built by the Nawab at his own expense.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the position, whether this will revert to the Indian Union, this property of the Nawab or will it remain as the Nawab's property.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: This is now practically the Indian Union property, but negotiations with regard to its transfer legally to the Union are in progress.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: That is all right.

PENICILLIN FACTORY

*572. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to refer to the statement made on 8th March, 1949 in reply to my Starred Question No. 939 during the last Budget Session and state what progress has been made for the opening of a factory for manufacture of penicillin?

(b) Has any firm applied for permission to start such a factory and if so, what is its name?

(c) Have Government consulted any expert in this matter and do Government intend to invest money in this concern?

(d) Will the recipe be disclosed to Government by the manufacturer?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Pending the formation of a Corporation or a private limited company, a Committee of Management was set up in April, 1949, which was authorised to take all preliminary steps for the early execution of the project. The Committee is selecting a site and is drawing up a procedure for the designing and erection of the Penicillin Plant. They have also formulated estimates of capital expenditure which are being examined by Government. A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been placed at the disposal of the Committee during the current year to meet preliminary expenses.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I ask if this industry will not be entrusted to any foreign concern?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That was never the intention, Sir.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, whether in India we have that talent to manufacture Penicillin? Is the Honourable Minister satisfied?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have some talent undoubtedly, but that will be reinforced by foreign talent also, whenever necessary.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the composition of the Committee?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Committee is composed of Mr. Neville Wadia as Chairman, Mr. J. D. Choksi, Accountant General, Bombay, Finance Secretary, Bombay Government and Major General Sokhey.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether any estimate for this plant has been secured in Europe by Major General Sokhey, Acting Director of the Haffkine Institute on behalf of the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I explained all that, Sir, very elaborately; the scheme was prepared by Major General Sokhey and that formed the basis of the proposal which is now being executed.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the approximate amount that will be invested in this scheme?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Our estimate was last year about Rs. 2.75 lakhs, but we have just received a revised estimate which may come to Rs. 4 crores and this is under examination.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has Government made any serious attempt to secure the services of Japanese experts for this factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In fact, we have received a proposal only last week from a Japanese concern and that also is now under examination.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to start the Penicillin factory in the Nilgiris?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Penicillin will be available for use throughout India including the Nilgiris. The factory will be located in the Bombay Presidency.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether this factory will produce some other drugs in addition to Penicillin?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, Sir. That is the proposal.

SHOOTING OF INDIANS IN SUMATRA

***573. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that three Indian nationals were shot by the Royal Netherlands Indonesian Army in the latter part of December 1948, at Djambi (Sumatra)?

(b) When was this incident reported to the Government of India?

(c) What are the causes for shooting these Indians?

(d) Has any action been taken in the matter and has any compensation been granted to the family of the deceased by the Dutch Government?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Yes.

(b) On February 21st, 1949.

(c) The precise causes are not known.

(d) Representations were made to the Government of Dutch Indonesia who have expressed their sincerest apologies to the Government of India for this unfortunate incident and have offered compensation to the relatives of the deceased, certain details in regard to which are still under correspondence.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Have these culprits been arrested and has any compensation been paid to the persons who have families?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: As I said, the culprits have not been traced. They were paratroopers and it has not been possible to trace them, though certain efforts are still being made.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What, Sir, is the basis of compensation which they have offered to us?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: There is no question of basis of compensation as such. There is a compensation to be paid to the relatives of the deceased in Indonesia and those who have relatives in India. They have offered a certain amount which was not found acceptable and counter-proposals have been made.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has any information been received by our Consul of the trouble brewing before the actual incident took place?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: As the Honourable Member is aware at that time the civil war was in full swing in Indonesia.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I know how many Indians were actually shot?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Three.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Government be able to tell us the causes of the incident?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I beg to remind the House that the state of affairs in Indonesia in the course of the last year has been very troubled; warfare has been going on all over the place, shooting, killing and all kinds of things. These I imagine are sufficient causes for incidents to occur.

DECK OFFICERS TRAINING

***574. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether short pre-sea training course to Deck (Navigating) Officers has been introduced in Bombay?

(b) If so, how many students have joined the college for such training this year and what is the accommodation in the college?

(c) What is the length of and fee for each term?

(d) What is the qualification prescribed for admission into this college?

(e) Do Government intend to take steps to increase the strength of students in this college?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The Honourable Member is probably aware that the Training Ship *Dufferin* now caters for the normal pre-sea training requirements on the navigational side and there is a Directorate of Marine Engineering Training at Bombay which looks after the pre-sea training for Engineer officers, whether the training is imparted in Workshops, etc. at Bombay or at Calcutta. A Nautical and Engineering College was however started in Bombay primarily to impart post-sea technical instruction, both on the Executive and Engineering sides. To meet the existing and immediate shortage of officers on the Executive side for our Merchant Marine, the Merchant Navy Training Committee recommended that a certain number of boys should be apprenticed directly to ships even without any pre-sea training. In order to ensure that the standard of efficiency of these direct apprentices does not suffer, it was decided to introduce, as a temporary measure, in the Nautical and Engineering College at Bombay a special pre-sea training scheme to consist of three batches of 30 each. These special pre-sea training courses started in January, 1949 and the third batch completed its training by the end of October last.

(b) Eighty-eight boys in all joined for these special pre-sea training courses. One boy left without finishing his course. The College accommodated for these courses 30 boys at a time. For the normal post-sea courses it could accommodate a similar number.

(c) The pre-sea training course was for three months and the fee is Rs. 45.

(d) The qualifications required for this pre-sea training course were as under:

(i) Education	...	Matriculation.
(ii) Age	...	16 to 18 years on the date of the commencement of the course which was extended to 18 for those possessing Inter (Science) or higher educational qualifications.

(e) As I have indicated earlier, there is no necessity to continue the pre-sea training course. For the post-sea training, so far as we could estimate at the moment, the provision existing in this college is adequate. There would however be no difficulty to augment such training facilities should occasion demand. In fact, the whole question of the number of persons to whom training should be given in the various institutions in relation to the actual future requirements is under examination.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know how many applications were received for admission into this college and how many were refused admission for want of accommodation?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I will give the figures. In all 1,350 applications were received for training in these three batches. 366 candidates out of these were called for interview and 187 candidates actually turned up for interview, and the number of candidates selected was 93.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what provision Government intend to make for accommodating such a large number of candidates, in future?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is not a question of making provision for the training of a very large number of people. The question is one of employment, and I may tell the House that out of the 87 persons who have actually received this pre-sea training, up-to-date 56 have found a place on board ships. The others are waiting for their employment. It is not a question of finding room for everybody who turns up for the purpose of being trained.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: How many of these applicants were Harijans, how many of them were called for interview, and how many were selected for the training, and if any were selected may I know whether they were admitted free, I mean, without fees?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid this information is not available.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know, Sir, whether students were admitted only from the Bombay Presidency or from all over India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Applications came from all over India, and I am told that selection was not confined to the people of the Bombay Presidency.

Shri S. Nagappa: If applicants came from all over India, may I know how many were admitted from Madras?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have not got the figures province-wise.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that out of the number of trainees who have been successful, some have been actually employed. May I know whether they are employed in all the steam ship companies, the Scindias, the British India, etc? Did the British India also accept candidates who have passed out?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As far as I am aware, they have been accepted by the Scindias, the Bharat Line, and the Indian Steam Ships, so far.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What about the British India? Was an approach made, and did this company refuse to take them?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I cannot answer straightaway, I have to make enquiries.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Honourable Minister will make enquiries to find out whether the British India actually admitted any of the trainees who have been successful?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I will make enquiries.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has the Honourable Minister got any scheme for the enlarging facilities of naval education?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I take it that the Honourable Member refers to the training for officers of the merchant marine, and not for the navy proper. Now, the training for the former is given to two different categories of persons. One category would qualify as Deck Officers, that is to say, who would be in charge of the navigational duties. And the other category would be with the engineering qualifications. Now, arrangements are being made, and they have been extended already for the purpose of giving adequate facilities for the training of these two categories of officers.

Shri S. Nagappa: What steps are the Government taking to provide jobs to those who have already been trained, and who are now unemployed?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member referring to the people who have received the pre-sea training?

Shri S. Nagappa: Yes.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We are doing our best to place them in different ships.

INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS (CLOSURE)

*575. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the number of textile mills closed down from April, 1949 up to date?

(b) What are the names of the mills so closed and what are the reasons for their closing down?

(c) How many labourers were affected by the closing of these mills?

(d) What steps have Government taken in this matter?

(e) Have Government made enquiries as to the reasons for the closing down of these mills and if so, what were they?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Twenty-eight mills have completely closed since April, 1949 and twenty-one mills have closed one or more shifts.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XV, *annexure No. 1*.)

(d) For the measures which have been taken by the Government for relieving accumulation of stocks I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to part (b) of Shri C. Subramaniam's Starred Question No. 25 on the 28th November, 1949.

(e) Yes. The reasons in each case as far as they are available have been given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XV, *annexure No. 1*.)

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether out of the 28 mills that are completely closed, whether any efforts have been made to run some of these mills by the Provincial Government or by the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir, the difficulty in most of these cases is that the mills are of an uneconomical nature. But a proposal is now before Government regarding the working of one big mill and a decision has already been taken in that behalf.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether it is a fact that the Bombay Gov-

ernment are having some mills opened at Sholapur, and if that is within the scheme that the Honourable Minister contemplates?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, Sir. That is the mill.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Sir, is it a fact that cloth and yarn are selling now below control rates?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The control rate is the ceiling rate and in some places it may be that they are available at lower prices.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Has any mill closed down due to the mal-practices of the management?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There are some.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Which are those?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Some of the cases are under investigation, and I do not think I should mention the names here.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Is it a fact that all the rest of the mills, except the one are uneconomic?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well, not all of them, but most of them are.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: What steps are Government taking to run those mills which are closed and which are not uneconomic?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government have no power now to run mills themselves, and it is proposed to take power in the hands of Government. At present all that the Government can do is to appoint a Controller who must be in a position to order the management to run the mills. But if the management itself is incapable of running the mills, obviously the Controller is helpless.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: How long will the Government take to assume the powers to run the mills?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is a question of finance, how far the Government will be able to spend the money for running the mills, which are not capable of being run properly; it is a matter which has to be seriously considered.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: My question is about running the economic mills. I am not asking about the uneconomic mills. I am asking about the economic ones, but due to some other factors, the mismanagement by the management or some other causes they closed down, I am asking about them.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: One such glaring case has been taken in hand by Government and orders will issue in a few days.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: How does Government reconcile its drive for more production and grading or allowing such situations to be created due to which Mills are closed down? Will Government see that such a situation does not arise again?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is asking, whether the Government is responsible for this situation.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government is not at all responsible. Of course when the uneconomic mills close down, the cotton will be available for use in the better organised mills.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: Of the mills that closed down, how many were spinning mills and how many weaving mills?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The list is placed on the Table of the House.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: I want the number.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not counted them.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Is there any hope of some of the mills again working, in the near future?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In fact, some of the mills have reopened.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is there any proposal from organised labour that if some of these mills are handed over to them, they will work them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Provided Government places funds at their disposal.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What is the resultant reduction in the output of textiles, on account of the close-down of these mills?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Roughly it comes to about 25 million yards of cloth and about 2 million yards of yarn provided the cotton thus released is not used by other mills.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Does the Government propose to bring in legislation in this session to take the power to run these mills?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I don't think it will be possible to bring such a measure this session.

श्री गोकुलभाई दौलतराम भट्ट: क्या माननीय मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि बम्बई में जो मिलें बन्द हैं उनको चलाने की कोई योजना बम्बई गवर्नमेंट की ओर से हो रही है?

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether any proposals are being formulated by the Bombay Government for the running of the mills which have been closed in Bombay?

आनरेबिल डा० श्यामा प्रसाद मुर्कजी: एक मिल चलाने की योजना हो रही है।

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Proposals are afoot to run one mill.

श्री गोकुलभाई दौलतराम भट्ट: कौन सी मिल है?

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt: Which one of the mills?

आनरेबिल डा० श्यामा प्रसाद मुर्कजी: शोलापुर मिल चलाने की योजना हो रही है।

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Proposal to run the Sholapur Mill is under consideration.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Could the Honourable Minister give us an idea of the skeleton scheme for combining some of the mills which are running on economic lines?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a proposal for action.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether there is any apprehension of any dearth of cloth in the country on account of the closing down of these 50 mills?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: All the 50 mills have not closed down. Quite a number of them are working at least one shift. The situation will not lead to a dearth in the total production.

Shri S. Nagappa: If as a result of the investigation (which the Honourable Minister said is going on) it is found that there are some mills which have closed down due to mismanagement, will Government consider the desirability of seeing to it that the labourers are given compensation; and if so, how much?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe in such cases references are made to the Tribunal. The matter goes to adjudication.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Out of the mills which have closed down, how many are uneconomic and how many are economic units?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Most of the mills are uneconomic. There may be about three or four only which can be run economically.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know how far the reduction in the output of textiles has affected the distribution and prices of textiles?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It has not unfavourably reacted yet.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Since when have the mills become uneconomical? From what date?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The exact date is not known.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Is the Honourable Minister aware that certain millowners in the Central Provinces and Berar have given notice to the provincial government that they may have to close down their mills for want of cotton? If so, what arrangement do Government propose to make to give compensation to the labourers, if those mills are closed down?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The notices have been withdrawn and the C.P. Government is in touch with the mills concerned.

ANDAMANS WOOD FOR MATCH MANUFACTURE

*576. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that wood from Andaman forests can be used for the manufacture of match sticks?

(b) If so, have the Government of India made any effort to utilise the rich forest resources in Andamans for this purpose and if so, to what extent?

(c) If not, do Government intend to utilise wood from Andaman forests for this purpose?

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

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

(b) About 1,000 tons of soft wood in the form of logs and about 150 tons in the form of splinters, per month, are supplied to the Indian Match Industry from Andamans.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer to (b) above.

MATCH FACTORIES IN INDIA

†*577. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total production of match boxes in India and to what extent is import of sticks made from foreign countries?

(b) What is the total number of match factories in India and what is the total capital value thereof?

(c) How many of these factories are now owned by foreign capital?

(d) How many of these factories are run on cottage industry lines?

(e) Have any efforts been made to increase match manufacture as a cottage industry?

(f) What is the average production cost of matches per lb.?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) 1948—5,33,243 cases of 50 gross boxes of 60 sticks each.

1949—3,94,279 cases. (January to September).

No sticks have been imported during the three years ending 1948-49.

(b) The total number is 200. Total capital value—about Rs. 4,28,75,500.

(c) Five of them, only partly.

(d) About 150 units.

(e) Every possible facility like concession in excise duty is being given to this cottage industry, but cottage factories are now facing a crisis on account of their higher cost and inferior quality of products.

(f) Rs. 2-12-0 per gross.

REPATRIATION OF INDIANS FROM BURMA

*578. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by Government in repatriating Indians from Burma due to civil war in that country?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): The total expenditure so far incurred by the Government of India on this account is approximately Rs. 8,28,000.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What is the total number of people repatriated who have come from Burma to India?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The total number of people who have returned to India from Burma is roughly 50,000, of whom 12,000 are destitutes who were repatriated by our Ambassador in Rangoon.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether there is any chance of these people going back to Burma and whether the Burma Government is prepared to take them back?

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: That will depend on the favourable evolution of the political situation in Burma which is unsettled at present.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether some of these people have left immovable properties in Burma and if so, what will happen to these properties?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I do not know how many of these people have left any immovable property in Burma. The question is an uncertain one. I might refer my Honourable friend to question No. 319, answered on the 6th December, in which a very detailed answer was given with regard to the question of Indian properties in Burma, left behind by those who were there and those who have come back to India.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know whether among the Indians repatriated there were some who had secured citizenship rights in Burma?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I do not think so.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How many Indians have been left behind in Burma and have the Government of India made any attempts to obtain conditions of security for our nationals there?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: My Honourable friend is aware that the situation in Burma is extremely uncertain, that there is a war going on between the different groups and it is not possible for the Government of Burma to afford protection in certain areas, though our embassy there and also the Government of India have been pressing that the lives and properties of Indian nationals in Burma should be adequately protected.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have proper arrangements been made for the security of those who are still left in Burma?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know if the Honourable Member suggests proper arrangements by the Government of Burma or the Government of India.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Through the negotiations of the Government of India, of course, with the Government of Burma.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Obviously protection in Burma can only be provided by the Government of Burma. The Government of India can only draw their attention and persevere in the task of drawing their attention. Ultimately such protection can only be given by the Government of Burma.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are the Government of India satisfied that proper protection is being afforded by the Government of Burma?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Conditions in Burma are such that no government can be satisfied with the adequacy of the protection.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: What arrangements have been made to settle the 12,000 people who have been repatriated from Burma?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: No guarantees of rehabilitation have been given to any repatriates and neither have any of these people asked for rehabilitation.

Shri S. Nagappa: To what classes do these people belong? Are they labourers or middle class people?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I have not got the information but I believe they belong to all classes.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What is the total number of Indians even now in Burma?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: It is more than 600,000.

TYRE MANUFACTURE

***579. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how many factories there are in India for the manufacture of tyres of automobiles, and aeroplanes?

(b) Where are they situated?

(c) What per cent of India's demand is met by these factories?

(d) What is the total value of tyres imported into this country in the year 1948-49?

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

(b) Bombay and Hooghly.

(c) The entire demand for these tyres.

(d) Rs. 6.69.673.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the rubber produced in this country is sufficient to feed its factories?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have to import raw rubber to the extent of 4,000 tons a year.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Have the Government found it necessary to give protection to these factories against foreign competition?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is not necessary. We are producing all that we need. In fact we are now exporting some of our rubber tyres manufactured in India.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know if Government have received any applications to start new enterprises?

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

Shri P. T. Chacko: Since there is a deficit, will Government encourage the production of rubber by planting rubber again?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are manufacturing practically all the types of tyres that we stand in need of. Only some types of giant tyres of odd sizes required for tractors are not manufactured. The existing factories are now attempting even to manufacture these.

Shri P. T. Chacko: My question was that since there is a shortage or deficit in the production of raw rubber in India, will the Government encourage more production by allowing planting again?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Certainly.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any plan under the consideration of Government for the manufacture of synthetic rubber?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir: not to any large extent: researches are going on.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: What is the difference between the prices of imported tyres and those manufactured in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I said, we allow tyres to be imported only of those varieties which are not manufactured in India. We have banned the import of tyres which are manufactured in this country.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Do the Government control the prices of tyres produced in the country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir. I thought the Honourable Member was against controls.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether there is any restriction at present on planting rubber?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: In view of the recent Rubber Restriction Bill passed in this House, may I know whether enough rubber will be available to these factories for making these tyres?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are in deficit now to the tune of 4,000 tons a year of raw rubber.

INDIAN CONSULATE IN SPAIN

***580. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether there is any Indian Consulate in Spain?

(b) If so, when was the Consul first appointed?

(c) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by Government on account of this Consulate?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) No.

(b) and (c): Do not arise.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether there is any Spanish Consulate in India?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: No, Sir.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not quite sure. There is a possibility that a consulate might be continued somewhere. We will enquire.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Do I take it that there is no Spanish Consulate in India?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable the Prime Minister has said that he will make enquiries.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If I may add, the difficulty in answering that question precisely is this. There may not be an official Consul but a person might be asked to function as a Consul.

Shri H. V. Kamath: But who has been asked to function as Consul?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I neither know his name nor parentage.

UNLAWFUL CONVERSIONS BILL

***581. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the introduction of the "Unlawful Conversions Bill" has been shelved for the time being?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) The proposed legislation was abandoned on the recommendation of the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Law. A copy of the Report of the meeting of the Standing Committee held on the 22nd March, 1949 when the matter was discussed by the Committee was circulated to all Members of the House.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know the Objects and Reasons of this Bill which has been abandoned.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The project was abandoned. Therefore there was no necessity to frame any Statement of Objects and Reasons. And no Bill was prepared.

Shri S. Nagappa: Will not the abandoning of this measure go against those who were converted by force?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable Member wants to know whether the Bill is not necessary.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Committee was advised that all the converted females for whose protection this Bill was contemplated have been taken back in the large majority of cases into the families to which they belonged and consequently there is no more necessity to make any provision in the matter.

ECONOMY MEASURES

***582. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether in pursuance of the economy drive in governmental expenditure, any steps have been recently taken so far as the Ministry of External Affairs and our embassies abroad are concerned;

(b) if so, what they are, and whether they fall short of the recommendations of the Economy Committee; and

(c) whether any further economy measures are under Government's consideration?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) and (b). Several measures have been adopted to effect economies in governmental expenditure concerning the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Embassies abroad. These have been referred to in detail in my reply to question No. 22 by Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi on 28th November, 1949.

The recommendations of the Economy Committee are being implemented as far as practicable. At the same time government have taken steps to effect economies on a more comprehensive scale. The economy measures already taken are expected to reduce the expenditure during the current financial year by Rs. 27.95 lakhs, which exceeds the annual saving of Rs. 17.19 lakhs recommended by the Economy Committee.

(c) Yes. The question of effecting further economies wherever possible is being kept constantly in view.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact, as was reported in the press at the time, that an Additional Secretary of the External Affairs Ministry was deputed to London early this year, either in April or in May, to look into the working of the High Commissioner's Office and recommend measures for reducing expenditure or retrenchment or economy in the High Commissioner's Office?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We are constantly considering these problems in our various offices, and an Additional Secretary did go to London to confer with the High Commissioner and make recommendations.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that the contingent expenditure in connection with our Embassy at Washington during the financial year, that is from April, 1949 up to date, has been much more than what was incurred during the corresponding period last year?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I do not know. I require notice to find that out.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What was the expenditure incurred by our Ambassador on the coast-to-coast tour undertaken by her last June or July?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Certainly the Honourable Minister would require notice for that; he cannot answer it offhand.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Was that tour undertaken at the instance of or under instructions from the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether this expected reduction of Rs. 27 and odd lakhs is commensurate with the policy of the Government to impose a 15 per cent. cut in expenditure?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: No.

Shri S. Nagappa: Why is it not so?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The cut of 15 per cent. is a cut in salary; it is not a cut in the general expenditure of the Government.

Shri S. Nagappa: If that is the case, may I know whether the salaries of all the Ambassadors have been cut by 15 per cent.?

Shri H. V. Pataskar: Are there any Cultural Attaches even now in our Embassies?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Speaking from memory, there has never been any Cultural Attache in our Embassies except in two or three places. They were called 'Cultural Attaches' although in effect they did important work otherwise. At the present moment possibly there might be one.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know what was the object of the extensive coast-to-coast tour undertaken by our Ambassador at Washington?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: But it was very extensive and expensive hence it arises out of this question.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Our Ambassadors are supposed to travel about for the purpose of increasing good-will for India, trade with India

and contacts with India. Apart from that, in the United States of America Indians—students and others—are spread out all over the country. In fact, the House may be interested to know that my visit has led to this conclusion that some effort should be made for greater contact with Indian students in various parts of that country as well as Indian residents and we are thinking of it, because at present the contacts of a distant Embassy with them are so remote that there can be hardly any touch with them easily, and we propose to have more close contacts in future.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, the question whether the reduction in salaries has been made applicable to Ambassadors has not been replied to.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Probably not. We have been considering whether to increase them.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have our other Ambassadors too—for instance our Ambassador to the U.S.S.R.—been asked to undertake similar tours in the countries to which they have been accredited?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am very happy to provide information to the House on any subject. But Honourable Members will realise that sometimes one has to deal with political conditions in a country and answers become difficult without embarrassing the Government.

AMBASSADOR IN TURKEY

*583. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) whether our Ambassador to Turkey has returned to India;
- (b) if so, the reasons for his return; and
- (c) whether Government propose to accredit any ambassador to Turkey in the near future?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) On expiry of the term of his appointment.

(c) The selection of a suitable person as ambassador will take some time and meanwhile there will be a Charge d'Affaires in Turkey.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What were the substantial achievements of our Ambassador to Turkey during his tenure of office?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I wonder if a list were to be made of the substantial achievements of any of us in Government, or as Members of the House, how the list could be prepared. I am not aware of any such list.

Shri H. V. Kamath: My point was this. In spite of the fact that our Ambassador to Turkey was doing very good work, including the saving of £53,000—as the Prime Minister stated during the last Budget session—on the Brazil barley deal, why were his services not continued at Ankara?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable the Prime Minister need not answer the question.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, may I beg to point out that I do not mind giving any answer, but I would ask you to inform me whether it is proper in the shape of a question to make insinuations?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not right for any Honourable Member to make insinuations against respected members or officers. I have been noticing it often. It is not right. Hereafter Honourable Members will take heed.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Where is the insinuation here? I am reading from the official report of the Assembly proceedings.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That official report is not the subject matter of the question here. The Honourable Member is asking as to why an officer of the Government has not been reappointed. It is a matter exclusively for the Government to decide.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Why was he not continued?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That exactly is the point. Such a question ought not to be put to the Government because it is the exclusive privilege of Government to decide it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With due deference to you, Sir, can we not ask the reasons for a particular course of action?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: That is very strange.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I will ask the Honourable Member to observe order in the House.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I have always observed order.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right. Kindly sit down.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I have sat down, Sir.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, may I be permitted on behalf of the Government to express my regret that any Member of the House should treat the Chair in the manner the Honourable Member has treated it.

INDIANS IN MALAYA

*584. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Indians in Malaya?

(b) How many of them enjoy citizenship rights there?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) The total number of Indians in Malaya is estimated to be about 627,000.

(b) The whole question of citizenship in Malaya is still under discussion in the Federal Legislative Council. According to the Census Report of 1947, 50 per cent. of the total Indian population in Malaya are local-born. As, according to the Federal Agreement, citizenship can be acquired by birth and by application, it would be reasonable to estimate that more than 50 per cent. of the Indians in Malaya are eligible to become Federal citizens.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is the news in the Press true that attempts are being made by the Malayan Government to disfranchise those Indians who were citizens of Malaya?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Nobody has been up till now a citizen of Malaya because Malayan citizenship is now only coming into being and it is only now that citizens are being enrolled. The rules and regulations have been framed only very recently.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Do the rules permit the enlistment of Indian nationals also as Malayan citizens?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is a certain misapprehension about such questions, if I may say so. Owing to the change in status of various

countries, continual difficulties are arising about the nationality of a particular person. In regard to countries like, say, Burma it is a clear issue of whether a person is a Burmese national or an Indian national; that is the case with regard to Ceylon and some other countries. In regard to countries which may be termed as British colonies, there is a slight difference. The difference would not have arisen if the connection between the Commonwealth of Nations and India had completely ceased; then an Indian there would have been either an alien national, and therefore not an Indian national, or an Indian national—one of the two. But as Honourable Members might have seen recently an enactment is being passed now by the British Parliament to give certain rights to Indian citizens abroad which normally they would not possess as being citizens of the Republic of India. That is, they have gone out of their way to give these rights. Now, in a country like Ceylon it is entirely for the Ceylon Government to decide or decide in consultation with the Indian Government. Unfortunately, we have not come to an agreement. In a place like Malaya which is a kind of colony, the Colonial Administration largely decides and as far as we have known at present, they propose, while acknowledging in a sense Indian nationality, yet to give citizenship rights to Indians there. In what number and what proportion depends on various factors.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Thank you for the detailed statement.

RETURN OF INDIANS FROM MALAYA

*585. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a number of Indian residents in Malaya have come back to India as refugees?

(b) How many Indian residents in Malaya are detained in jails and on what grounds are they so detained?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Government are not aware of any Indian resident of Malaya having come back to India as a refugee due to the present disturbances there. The Honourable Member has, presumably, in mind the case of Indians, arrested by the Malayan authorities under the Emergency Regulations, who were repatriated to India. Up to the 13th November, 1949, 295 Indian nationals along with their dependents were thus repatriated.

(b) The number of Indians detained in Malaya under the Emergency Regulations up to 31st October, 1949, is 270. They are detained on suspicion that they were assisting or were likely to assist in subversive activities in the country.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

*586. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether an enquiry has been undertaken about the conditions of agricultural labour in India?

(b) How many villages have so far been surveyed?

(c) Has any questionnaire been framed for such enquiry?

(d) How much money has so far been spent on this enquiry?

(e) Has it been possible to arrive at any tentative conclusions on the basis of such enquiries regarding the condition of agricultural labour in India?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Yes.

(b) A preliminary enquiry for the purpose of testing the suitability of

questionnaire, amplifying the instructions to the investigation staff etc. has been conducted in 27 villages in Madras, West Bengal, Bihar, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Berar, Assam, Orissa and Mysore.

(c) Yes.

(d) The total amount spent till the end of October, 1949, is approximately Rs. 1,14,000.

(e) No.

Shri R. L. Malviya: How long will it take for the completion of the enquiry?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think it will take a year or more.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Do Government propose to implement the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act pending the results of the enquiry?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: We are taking all possible steps to request the Provincial Governments to expedite the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Has any enquiry been made about the conditions of agricultural labourers in the Patiala and East Punjab States Union and in the East Punjab? If an enquiry has not been made, may I infer from it that there is no such acute problem in these territories?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The problem exists in the Patiala and East Punjab States Union and the enquiry will be held there also.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know the possible date when the Act is likely to be implemented?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will refer the Honourable Member to the Act itself.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: How many more villages are to be surveyed?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: This is a test-checking. After obtaining the results of this test-checking, the intention is to survey 800 villages in the whole country.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the fact that so many villages have been surveyed and test-checked, is this experience not enough for the Government to introduce the Act or enforce at least some of its provisions?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is not.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: May I know on what basis these villages were selected for enquiry?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: These villages were selected at random in consultation with the statisticians and economists, to have test-checking. In each case they just select the village at random and proceed on the basis of results obtained as to how far the data received will be reliable if extended to other villages as well.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Government place the results of the survey before this House?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: If any Honourable Member is interested it can be readily made available to him.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will cultivators cultivating on uneconomic holdings be taken as agricultural labourers? That is to say, such cases where the peasant has his own holding which is not sufficient for him and therefore he cultivates somebody else's land?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Anybody working on wages in the fields will be taken as an agricultural labourer.

Shri S. Nagappa: Arising out of the Honourable Minister's answer that the collection of data will take one year, may I know whether there is any scheme under the contemplation of Government to give temporary relief to these wage-earners?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: If the Honourable Member had followed my reply to the question of Mr. Malviya, it would have been clear to him that all possible steps are being taken to expedite the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act by the Provincial Governments.

Shri S. Nagappa: I wanted to know whether any scheme is under contemplation of the Government to give temporary relief to these labourers during the interregnum.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Permanent relief itself will be given very soon.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will again request my Honourable friend to go through the Minimum Wages Act.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: In answer to part (c), the Honourable Minister stated that the questionnaire has been framed. Will the Government consider the desirability of sending this questionnaire to all Harijan Associations working in the field of labour in the Madras province?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It has been the policy of the Government to send it to all organisations or individuals interested in the matter as soon as they ask for it.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is the Honourable Minister aware that in Assam 90 per cent. of the proprietors of agricultural land are themselves cultivating, and will they all be included in the category of agricultural labourers?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will explain the position to my Honourable friend. It depends also on the provincial governments. The primary responsibility of fixing wages for agricultural labourers is that of the provincial governments, and whatever enquiry we are holding, we are holding in consultation with the provincial and State governments concerned. If the provincial government of Assam thinks that all of them should be included in the category of agricultural labourers, of course the Central Government will have no objection.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I may explain, Sir, he has not followed the point.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have quite followed the point. I have answered it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable Minister does not agree with the Honourable Member.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: There is no question of agreement. The point is this. There are some people who own lands, but those are uneconomic for them; so they till their own land and also the land of others. These people will of course be called agricultural labourers. But what about others? The

Honourable Minister stated that everybody who "cultivates" land will be an agricultural labourer.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I said that anybody who works in the field of others for wages will be treated as an agricultural worker.

Shri S. Nagappa: Is the Government aware that this questionnaire has not been received by many important organisations working in this field?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Anybody or any organisation which is interested in this work may ask Government to send a questionnaire and my Ministry will be only too glad to forward a copy of the same.

BOUNDARIES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

***587. Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to my Starred Question No. 51 on the 31st January, 1948 regarding the demarcation of the Indian Union boundaries in accordance with the Radcliffe Award and state;

(a) whether any joint survey has since been undertaken with a view to demarcating the boundaries between India and Pakistan in the east and the west;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the steps taken for such demarcation; and

(c) whether, in the absence of demarcated boundaries, the measures relating to defence and realisation of custom duties are not hampered?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As stated by me in answer to Question No. 49, asked by Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, on the 28th November, 1949, a joint Tribunal has been set up under the Chairmanship of Lord Justice Algot Bagge of Sweden for the adjudication and final settlement of certain boundary disputes on the East—West Bengal and East Bengal—Assam borders and for demarcating the boundaries accordingly. The Tribunal has commenced its work only recently. As regards the other portions of the boundary between East—West Bengal and East Bengal and Assam, it was agreed between the two Governments that the Directors of Land Records of the Provinces concerned should demarcate the boundary in such manner as they might mutually agree upon. Preliminaries in this respect are being completed and the work of actual survey and demarcation is expected to commence very soon. As regards the West—East Punjab Border, the Financial Commissioners of the two Provinces assisted by such expert Revenue officers, as may be necessary, are to consider this problem and make definite recommendations for the erection of boundary pillars.

(c) While it is very desirable from all points of view to have the boundaries finally demarcated without further delay, the realisation of customs revenue is not being hampered by the absence of exact lines of demarcation.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Is the question of the 500 sq. miles of Nadia district one of the subjects being considered by the Tribunal?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid not. The terms of reference were discussed and settled at an Inter-Dominion Conference.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Do I take it that this question of 500 sq. miles of Nadia district which has been claimed by people there that it ought to be

included in the Indian Union according to the correct interpretation of the Radcliffe Award was not discussed in the Inter-Dominion Conference?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Any interpretation of the Radcliffe Award as regards what is included in the terms of reference of this Tribunal is a matter which I would deprecate the House from discussing. The matter is before a Tribunal and we must leave it to the Tribunal to come to a decision.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Are any steps being taken now to demarcate the boundaries between Khasi Hills and Eastern Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The officers of East Bengal and Assam connected with demarcation and survey have been conferring with each other and when the line is finally settled, steps for demarcation will be taken.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: My question was whether this question of including the 500 sq. miles of Nadia district was or was not discussed at the Inter-Dominion Conference.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I believe among the many contentions that were discussed at the time this was one, but the actual terms of reference were agreed upon between the representatives of West Bengal and India on the one hand and representatives of East Bengal and Pakistan on the other.

Shri H. V. Kamath: At present, how many military and police outposts are there on the border in the east as well as in the west so as to safeguard against violation of the border?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid I am unable to give that information.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the total length of the Indo-Pakistan border on the east and on the west?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Several hundreds of miles.

Shri H. V. Kamath: But what is the exact length?

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it a fact that certain villages which according to the Radcliffe Award ought to have been in India's possession in the district of Gurdaspur in East Punjab are still with Pakistan and they are refusing to give possession?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am not quite sure whether all the villages in dispute are with Pakistan. Some are with us also.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Do I take it that this question of 500 sq. miles of Nadia district has been given up for good?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: That is not a matter for me to answer at the present juncture. If there is any good case for including that area within the terms of reference agreed on, that is a matter for decision by the Tribunal.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether under the terms of reference of the Tribunal, is it contemplated that it will go into the question apart from the disputed territories of exchanging certain enclaves between the two Dominions?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not think so.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: May I know whether it is a fact that about two miles of Indian territory in Khasi Hills have been included in Pakistan and what steps have been taken by the Government of India to recover it?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I believe the Honourable Member is referring to some area beyond Dauki in Assam. As a matter of fact, the Pakistan customs post at that place has been pushed about a mile or so towards our boundary, but according to the Assam Government that outpost is not within our territory.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: May I know who is competent to raise this question about these 500 sq. miles before the Tribunal and whether they are likely to take it up within their terms of reference?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I cannot say what the Tribunal will or will not do. As a matter of fact, our Counsel will certainly press whatever comes within the terms of reference.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: My question was whether the terms of reference cover this question.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I have already answered that question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

***588. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what scientific discoveries made in the Indian Research Institute have been or are likely to be put to industrial use?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XV, annexure No. 2.)

REHABILITATION (DISPLACED PERSONS)

***589. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries and factories started exclusively for displaced persons;

(b) the number of co-operative production centres started primarily for the benefit of displaced persons and the special facilities provided by Government;

(c) the number of large scale farms of mechanised agriculture exceeding 50 acres started solely for displaced persons; and

(d) the number of displaced persons employed as a result of the help extended by Government?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Government are not starting factories exclusively for displaced persons, but facilities in the form of loan, electric power, building materials are given to displaced industrialists wishing to set up their own factories. The Central and Provincial Governments and many semi-official bodies have, however, started work centres with the intention of providing remunerative employment to displaced persons.

(b) There are a number of work centres which are being gradually converted into Co-operatives.

(c) Except for some small tracts, no large scale mechanized cultivation has been resorted to.

(d) It is difficult to state the number. But I may inform the Honourable Member that 1,53,450 persons have secured employment through the efforts of Government Agencies.

RECOVERIES FROM PAKISTAN

***590. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Government have ordered the forfeiture of the deposits which were made with the Colonization Officer, Nili Bar Colony, Pakpattan by non-Muslims along with their tenders for lease of lands, and which they could not get back on account of disturbances; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to recover these amounts?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Government have received no representations regarding forfeiture of deposits.

(b) Does not arise.

MISUSE OF U.N. AEROPLANES

***591. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Kashmir Government had protested strongly against the misuse of U.N. planes by U.N.C.I.P. officials for running a clandestine service between Kashmir and Pakistan?

(b) What action have the Government of India taken in this regard and with what results?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). There has been no question of a clandestine service as suggested. The Government of Kashmir made a report to the Government of India that W/Comdr. Smith was taken from Pakistan to Srinagar in a U.N. plane when the validity of his permit for the journey had expired. Enquiries showed that there was nothing *mala fide* in this incident. The Government of India have pointed out to the Commission the desirability of restricting the use of U.N. planes to U.N. official purposes and the Commission have issued suitable instructions in the matter.

TEMPORARY PERMITS

***592. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Muslims who came to India from West Pakistan with temporary permits during the period from March to September 1949;

(b) the number of those who refused to go back after the expiry of the permit;

(c) the action taken against them; and

(d) whether any of these were allowed to stay in India and if so, why?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) During the period from March to September, 1949, 21,670 temporary permits were issued to Muslims

for entry into India from West Pakistan. The number of persons actually entering India will be larger as often more than one person is covered by a permit.

(b) Nearly 2,600. The information is, however, incomplete as reports from a few Provincial Governments are still awaited.

(c) In certain cases permits were extended, others were prosecuted, and those convicted were sent back or deported to Pakistan after completion of their sentences. Some are still under trial.

(d) Seventy persons were allowed to stay in India temporarily pending a final decision on their cases. Further information regarding them is being collected.

ENTRY OF MUSLIMS FROM WESTERN PAKISTAN WITHOUT PERMITS

***593. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of Muslims who were found to have entered India from Western Pakistan without any permits since permit system was introduced?

(b) How many of them were tried and what was the punishment awarded?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Between the 19th July, 1948, i.e., the date of the introduction of the Permit System and the 31st October, 1949, about 1,322 persons are reported to have entered India from Western Pakistan without permits. The information, however, is incomplete as the reports from some of the Provincial and State Governments have not yet been received.

(b) Of the 1,322 persons, 16 are untraceable. Of the remaining, 979 were convicted and 130 have been discharged. Cases are still pending against 196. The punishment awarded in the case of those convicted was either fine or imprisonment or both. Fines ranged between Rs. 10 to Rs. 2/0 and imprisonment varied from one week to one year.

STEEL IMPORTS

***594. Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total quantity of steel imported into India during the past ten months and the cost of these imports?

(b) How much of it was given over to fabricators?

(c) How much of it was in the form of sheets for wagon building?

(d) Has all the steel referred to in part (c) above been taken over by the Railway Board?

(e) Is it a fact that the Railway Board has refused to accept their full quota of steel?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The total quantity of steel imported during the ten months from January to October, 1949, was 284,190 tons at Rs. 15.89 crores approximately.

(b) As all steel imported by Government are pooled with indigenous steel for distribution against quota certificates, it is not possible to state what quantity was released from imported steel and what quantity from indigenous steel. I may, however, add that the quantity of steel allotted to the steel processing industries during 1949 is 233,519 tons.

INDIAN ASSETS IN BURMA

*598. **Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what is the total investment of our nationals in Burma?

(b) What is the extent of loss incurred by our nationals as a result of their nationalisation of land and such other measures?

(c) Have Government satisfied themselves that the Government of Burma have not discriminated against India in their policy towards foreign investment in their country?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what measures have Government taken to safeguard the interest of Indian nationals?

(e) If no such measures have been taken so far do Government propose to take any measures now?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) No reliable statistics are available regarding the investment of Indian nationals in Burma.

(b) The extent of loss, if any, which our nationals may suffer, as a result of resumption of their lands under the Burmese Land Nationalisation Act, 1948, cannot be estimated at present, as the question of amount of compensation to be paid still remains to be decided.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The questions do not arise.

INDIAN ASSETS IN CEYLON AND MALAYA

*599. **Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what is the total investment of our nationals in Ceylon and Malaya?

(b) What is the extent of loss incurred by our nationals as a result of their nationalisation of land and such other measures?

(c) Have Government satisfied themselves that the Ceylon and Malaya Governments have not discriminated against India in their policy towards foreign investment in their countries?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what measures have Government taken to safeguard the interest of Indian nationals?

(e) If no such measures have been taken so far do Government propose to take any such measures now?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) An estimate of the total investments by Indian nationals in Ceylon and Malaya is not available. The attention of the Honourable Member is however, drawn to the reply

given to part (a) of Question No. 1425 asked by Shri Brajeshwar Prasad on the 28th March, 1949.

(b) There has been no nationalization of land in Ceylon and Malaya.

(c) So far, no such discrimination against India has come to the notice of the Government of India.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

COPRA AND COCOANUT OIL

*600. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how much copra and cocoanut oil imported from Ceylon were distributed in the province of West Bengal?

(b) What is the difference in price of cocoanut oil in West Bengal and South India in the year 1949-50?

(c) Is there any cocoanut oil mill in West Bengal?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what steps do Government propose to take to encourage cocoanut oil industry in West Bengal?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The information is as follows:

	(all figures in gallons).			
	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50 (Jan./August).
(1) Coconut oil	1,503,927	1,606,754	1,125,741	Nil
(2) Copra.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) The prices of coconut oil at Calcutta during the first seven months of 1949-50 were, on the average, about 10 per cent. and 18 per cent. higher than in Cochin and Allepy respectively and two per cent. lower than in Madras.

(c) There are two mills in West Bengal which crush copra for making coconut oil.

(d) Does not arise.

EXTRADITED CHINESE FROM TIBET

*601. **Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Chinese nationals who were allowed to enter into India via Kalimpong as a result of the quit order by the Government of Tibet?

(b) How many of these Chinese have left for China and how many are still in India?

(c) How many of these Chinese have Indian wives?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The total number of Chinese evacuees from Tibet was 100 including 28 children. Party also included 33 guides and attendants who have returned to Tibet.

(b) 45 of these Chinese nationals have already left for China. The others will return as soon as transport is available. One of them, reported to be a Japanese national, is at present under detention pending his proposed repatriation to Japan.

(c) None.

TREATY WITH BHUTAN

***602. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have concluded a new treaty with the Government of Bhutan;

(b) if so, what are the terms of the treaty and in what manner these terms differ from the terms of the previous treaty that existed between the British Government and the Government of Bhutan;

(c) what was the amount payable annually to the Government of Bhutan by the Government of India under the old treaty by way of compensation or subsidy and what would be the amount payable by the present Government under the new treaty and what is the reason for increase in the amount, if any; and

(d) whether any part of the territory forming part of the Dominion of India has been retransferred to the Government of Bhutan and if so, the extent of such territory and the reasons why this was done?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). A copy of the treaty is placed on the Table. (See Appendix XV, annexure No. 8.).

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

***603. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has since been made in the implementation of the pilot scheme of Employees' State Insurance in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara;

(b) whether any machinery has been set up or is proposed to be set up in either of these areas to enforce the provisions of Employees' State Insurance Act and if so, what and if not, by which date one is likely to be set up;

(c) whether any attempt has been made in Ajmer-Merwara to acquire buildings for dispensary, local offices, etc., to enable the Corporation to function in the industrial areas;

(d) whether any local offices where cash benefits will be administered have been set up in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara; and

(e) whether any regional office has been opened in either of the Provinces and if not, how long it is likely to take?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) It was originally intended to introduce the pilot scheme under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. The Standing Committee of the Corporation which considered the question in detail has decided that due to practical difficulties it may not be possible to implement the pilot scheme in Ajmer-Merwara at present. It has, however, been decided to implement the Scheme very shortly in Delhi.

Before the scheme is implemented in Delhi, accommodation has to be secured and other arrangements made for the regional office, local offices and dispensaries. So far, a regional office has been set up and efforts are being made to obtain accommodation for local offices. Steps are also being taken to build dispensaries.

The regional office has already contacted the employers in Delhi for obtaining complete data as regards workers who will be insured under the Scheme.

The Central Government, the Provincial Governments and the Corporation are finalising the various rules and regulations that have to be promulgated under the Act, providing for various administrative and other details for implementing the scheme.

The pilot scheme will be inaugurated in Delhi as soon as the necessary buildings for the various offices are acquired and set up and the necessary rules, regulations and other matters are finally completed.

(b) In view of the reply to question (a), no organisation is proposed to be set up immediately in Ajmer-Merwara. In Delhi, a skeleton regional office has been set up and other local offices and dispensaries will be set up as soon as the necessary buildings become available. These offices are expected to be set up by the 31st March 1950.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In Delhi, strenuous efforts are being made at securing accommodation for the local offices. In respect of Ajmer-Merwara the question does not arise.

(e) A skeleton regional office has been set up in Delhi. In respect of Ajmer-Merwara the question does not arise.

NON-MUSLIM DISPLACED PERSONS IN PAKISTAN

***604. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-Muslim displaced persons still awaiting repatriation in Rawalpindi and other places in Pakistan;

(b) whether any agreement has been arrived at between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan in respect of the exchange of non-Muslim displaced persons at present in Rawalpindi camp with the Muslim detenus and prisoners in India; and

(c) if so, what will be the numbers of such repatriated displaced persons and detenus or prisoners respectively and by which date such agreement is expected to be implemented?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The number of non-Muslims awaiting repatriation from Pakistan is not known. Those desiring to come to India are received in transit camps at Karachi and Lahore maintained by the Government of India. From there they are evacuated to India. The number of such persons evacuated from Karachi and Lahore during October, 1949 is 2,909 and 452 respectively.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

TEXTILES AND COTTON (IMPORT AND EXPORT)

***605. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of cotton cloth and yarn, silk goods and silk yarn imported from Dollar area and Sterling area separately during the current financial year;

(b) the total quantity and value of cloth, cotton yarn, silk goods and silk yarn etc., exported from India to other countries during the same period; and

(c) the total quantity of long and short staple cotton produced in India during 1948-49 and the total quantity and value of cotton of each variety imported into India from foreign countries including Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) to (c). Statements giving the required information for the period ending with 31st August 1949 are placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XV, annexure No. 4.) Later statistics are not yet ready.

TREATY WITH NEPAL

***606. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negotiations have been in progress for a treaty between India and Nepal;

(b) if so, the basis, scope and object of the proposed treaty; and

(c) the stage of progress made in the negotiations?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Nepal has been in treaty relationship with India since the early part of the 19th century. After the independence of India it was felt desirable to enter into a fresh treaty of friendship and commerce between the two Governments. Negotiations are proceeding between the two Governments with regard to the terms of the proposed new treaty.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AMERICA

***607. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the expenses incurred on his recent visit to America and England?

(b) How many persons accompanied him?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Exact figures are not available as accounts have not been received yet. The principal items of expenditure incurred were air passage from Bombay to London and back and hotel bills in London on the outward journey to the United States. The President of the United States was good enough to send his own aircraft to convey our party from London to the U.S. and back. In the United States the Prime Minister's party were guests of Government, and in Canada they were guests of the Canadian Government. On return from America, the U.K. Government were good enough to offer their hospitality in England.

(b) Those who accompanied me at Government expense were the Secretary-General, my Private Secretary and an Under Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs. My daughter also accompanied me on this tour but her expenses were paid for privately and not charged to Government account.

INDIANS IN MADAGASCAR

***608. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that many Indian settlers have been deported from Madagascar to India?

(b) If so, how many Indians have been so deported?

(c) Is it a fact that the British Consul-General said that he was unable to help the Indian population in the matter?

(d) What action do Government propose to take in the matter?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a), (b) and (d). Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to Starred Question No. 163 on the 1st December, 1949.

(c) No, Sir. The British Consul-General has made suitable representations in all cases which have been referred to him by us or direct by the Indians. In a few cases where his representations have produced no results he has stated that his further intervention would serve no useful purpose.

RECOGNITION OF GOVERNMENTS IN INDO-CHINA

***609. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had any formal or informal negotiations with U.S.A. and countries of the Commonwealth for the recognition of Bao Dai or Viet Minh Government in Indo-China;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the respective view points of U.S.A. and the different Commonwealth countries; and

(c) when do Government propose to take a final decision in the matter?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This matter has not come up before Government.

COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF RAIDS FROM PAKISTAN

***610. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what compensation, if any, has been given to the victims of the raids by the Pakistan nationals across the frontiers and if none, why?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): No application for compensation has been received by the Government of India. According to information so far received by them compensation has in the following cases been sanctioned by the Provincial Government concerned to the victims of raids from across the India-Pakistan border:

By the Government of West Bengal.—Rs. 210 as gratuitous relief to the families of 7 persons carried away by the Pakistan Police in October, 1948, from Saheb nagar on the Murshidabad border.

By the Government of East Punjab.—Rs. 950 as compensation paid to the dependents killed in four border raids and extraordinary pensions of Rs. 12 p.m. in one case and Rs. 3 p.m. each in three other cases. Two or three other cases are still under consideration.

STATE-OWNED FACTORIES

*611. **Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories State-owned or partially financed by the State, which have been started since August 1947 or are proposed to be started in the near future; and

(b) the provinces in which they are proposed to be located and the reasons for selecting particular provinces for locating them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XV, annexure No. 5.)

RAW SILK (IMPORT)

*612. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the import of raw silk had been banned by Government in July 1948?

(b) Are Government aware that during the same month a large shipment of raw silk was imported at Okha Port?

(c) Had any licences for the import of foreign raw silk been issued by Government during the period when the import of raw silk was banned?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No. In July 1948 there was a ban on the licensing of raw silk but not on imports thereof against valid licences issued before the imposition of the ban. It may be added that licences were granted for imports of raw silk freely from Non-dollar sources during July-December 1947 and from Sterling Area countries only during January-June 1948.

(b) No imports of raw silk were made at Okha Port in July, 1948. Some imports were made during August to October 1948 but the consignments cannot be said to be large.

(c) No licences were issued after 1st July 1948, when the general decision not to issue licences was taken, until the current half year when it has again been declared to be licensable.

DEVALUATION

*613. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the consequences of devaluation, according to the latest information available to the Government, in respect of—

(i) the production in the leading large scale industries in India which provide goods either for export or for home market;

(ii) export of Indian produce, or merchandise, and re-exports from India, during 1949-50; and

(iii) imports of food and machinery, petroleum and its products, and raw materials of Industry?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (i), (ii) and (iii). Our rupee was devalued only on 19th September 1949. Having regard to the comparatively short time that has elapsed, I would prefer to postpone judgment on the consequences of devaluation in these matters.

CEYLON MINISTER'S VIEWS ON INDIA

*614. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the report published in the *Pakistan Times* containing a version of the interview given by Sir John Kotalawala, Ceylon's Minister for Transport and Works, in Cairo on November 8th, 1949, and the views expressed by him on India and Pakistan and their relations with Ceylon, to the representative of a News Agency there?

(b) If so, have the Government of India made enquiries into the matter to find out if the version of the interview contained therein is correct?

(c) Has any action been taken by the Government of India in the matter and have they lodged any protest with the Ceylonese Government and if so, with what results?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Yes. Immediately on seeing the report the Government asked the Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon as well as the Indian Embassy in Egypt to ascertain the correctness of the statement attributed to Sir John Kotalawala. In the meantime Sir John himself in a statement issued by him to the Press in Ceylon denied having made any such statement and characterised the whole report as a complete fabrication and "a lie". He also explained the position to the Government of India through the Ceylon High Commissioner at New Delhi and in particular expressed his regret that such a statement involving the action of the Deputy Prime Minister should have been attributed to him. In the circumstances the question of lodging a protest with the Ceylon Government does not arise.

TREATMENT METED OUT TO KHAN BROTHERS

*615. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the reports published in the various Indian newspapers about the inhuman and barbarous treatment meted out to Khan brothers in the prison by the Government of Pakistan?

(b) Have the Government of India received news of the various protest meetings held in different parts of the country and requesting them to intervene in the matter and to bring this to the notice of the United Nations Organisation?

(c) If so, have the Government of India taken any action in the matter or do they intend to take and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). The Government of India have seen Press reports on these subjects.

(c) Government do not interfere in the internal affairs of a foreign country, and hence have taken no action in the matter. But individual members of Government share the concern of the public in India at the reports received and earnestly trust that the Khan Brothers, who played such a notable part in the struggle for the freedom of this country and who are loved by large numbers of people both in India and Pakistan, should receive the treatment and high consideration which is their due.

INDIANS DETAINED IN MALAYA

*616. **Shri V. Ramaiah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many Indians have been detained in Malaya for taking active part in Communist activities and how many for paying money to Communist agents to safeguard their lives?

(b) What steps have Government taken to get those who were detained for paying money in fear released?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Government have no information on the exact number of Indians detained for taking active part in the terrorist activities in Malaya. Most of the detainees were arrested on suspicion that they were assisting or were likely to assist in subversive activities in the country. So far as the Government is aware, 40 Chettiers were arrested on the specific charge of paying protection money to terrorists or their agents.

(b) Representations were made to the Malayan authorities by our Representative in Malaya, as a result of which 23 of the 40 persons arrested were released unconditionally and 15 were repatriated to India.

WOOLNER COLLECTIONS OF MANUSCRIPTS AT LAHORE

*617. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Woolner collections at Lahore consisting of some 10,000 manuscripts in Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit and other Indian languages formed part of the assets divisible between India and Pakistan;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how the matter was dealt with; and

(c) whether the Government of India propose to approach the Government of Pakistan for the transfer of their shares of the manuscripts or for obtaining their micro-film copies?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister for Education. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for 20th December, 1949, when the Honourable Minister for Education will answer it.

INDIANS IN BAHREIN ISLAND

*618. { **Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:**
Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter from an Indian in Bahrein island in the Persian Gulf published in the Hindustan Times, Delhi, dated the 1st December 1949, regarding the position of Indians in that island;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that permission is refused to new comers from India to enter the island;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indians residing in that island are not allowed to go to India on business or on urgent family matters; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take any action in the matter?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Yes.

(b) No; facilities for travel to Bahrein can, as a general rule, be granted by the passport issuing authorities in India, to Indians and their wives who are proceeding to the Persian Gulf States on *bona fide* business, provided they have arranged accommodation beforehand. It is only in cases other than these that a 'no objection certificate' has to be obtained by the applicant from the Political Agent of the Persian Gulf State concerned.

(c) and (d). There can be no such restriction but the Government of India are prepared to make investigations if specific cases are mentioned to them.

AGREEMENT WITH CEYLON FOR PURCHASE OF COPRA AND COCONUT PRODUCTS

*619. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the main terms of the agreement the Government of India have entered into with Ceylon for the purchase of Copra and Coconut products;

(b) the date of the agreement;

(c) the amounts of Copra and Coconut oil imported to India in the years 1946 and 1947;

(d) the price for the commodities mentioned above now prevailing in Colombo and at Cochin?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Commerce Ministry's Press Note dated the 8th December 1949 releasing the text of the agreement to the public. A copy of the Press Note has been placed in the Library of the Legislature.

(c) and (d). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XV, annexure No. 6.)

SUGAR INDUSTRY (PROTECTION)

*620. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state when the protective duty on sugar was imposed?

(b) What is the total amount of money which the consumer had to pay as a result of the imposition of protective duties over and above what he would have paid if no protective duty had been imposed on sugar?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Protective duty on sugar was imposed in 1932.

(b) I am unable to give a categorical reply to this question. It is not easy even to estimate this amount, as we cannot be certain as to what the rate of revenue duty would have been from time to time, in the absence of a protective duty, the quantity of sugar that might have been imported or consumed and the price of that sugar.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Thursday, 15th December, 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

QUININE

*621. **Shri R. K. Sidhya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the annual consumption of Quinine in India?

(b) How much of this is imported and how much produced in India?

(c) What was the price at which quinine was imported and what is the cost of production in India?

(d) Have Government considered the question of expanding the cultivation of Cinchona for growing more quinine in India?

(e) Are Government aware that India can produce sufficient quantity of quinine if more land is brought into cultivation?

(f) What is the number of cases of Malaria reported in the years 1947, 1948 and up to July, 1949?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The total consumption of quinine in India during 1948-49 was estimated to be about 3,00,000 pounds.

(b) About 1,00,000 pounds a year is manufactured in India and the rest is imported.

(c) No figures are available regarding the rates at which quinine is imported by the trade. The last occasion on which quinine was imported by Government was during 1947 when rates varying from Rs. 41 to Rs. 62 per pound were paid for imports from different sources. The average cost of manufacture of quinine in India is nearly Rs. 29 per pound.

(d) The Government of India have no plans for expanding the cultivation of cinchona but the Madras Government have sanctioned a scheme for the expansion of quinine production and have made arrangements for further planting of cinchona trees.

(e) Yes, but in view of the advent of synthetic anti-malarial drugs a large-scale expansion of cultivation is not considered advisable at present.

(f) Malaria is not a notifiable disease and exact figures as to its incidence are not available. The Health Survey and Development Committee estimated in their report that about 100 million people suffered from malaria every year in undivided India.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether an alternative to quinine is also imported from foreign countries and if so, what its quality is and whether the Central Government or any of the Provinces have substituted that for quinine?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Drugs for instance like paludrine are imported from outside and it is because this particular synthetic drug is found to be safer, much cheaper and more effective in the routine treatment of malaria that most of the Governments are not now anxious to increase the cultivation of cinchona, and they are not so interested therefore in the purchase of quinine.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is the synthetic more effective for malaria?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I just said that for the routine treatment of malaria this synthetic drug is more effective and much cheaper; quinine is effective in cases of malignant malaria.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Do Government intend taking steps to manufacture the synthetic drug in India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir. When the Penicillin Factory in Bombay begins working it will produce paludrine also.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या मलेरिया के लिये कुनीन क सिवा और कोई ऐसी आयुर्वेदिक दवा नहीं है, और क्या इस मामले में कोई सिफारिश चोपड़ा कमिटी ने नहीं की है ?

Seth Govind Das: May I know whether there is no Ayurvedic medicine to substitute quinine in the treatment of Malaria, and has any recommendation been made in this connection by the Chopra Committee?

आनरेबिल राजकुमारी अमृतकौर : मैं इस वक्त यह नहीं कह सकती कि कितनी और दवायें हैं जो वैद्य हमारे लोगों को देते हैं। लेकिन अभी जो कमिटी बंटाई गई है, उसका यह भी मकसद होगा कि हमारी जो देसी दवायें हैं उनमें भी रिसर्च की जाय और देखा जाय कि तमाम बीमारियों के लिये उनका क्या उपयोग हो सकता है।

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I cannot say now how many other medicines are prescribed by our *Vaidyas*. But this also shall be a point for consideration by the Committee which has now been set up to carry out research in our existing indigenous medicines and investigate what use could be made of these for all the maladies.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Is there any plan or scheme to have correct statistics in respect of the incidence of malaria in this country?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already said that since it is not a notifiable disease it will be perfectly impossible to get correct statistics.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: As quinine production has become a national industry, will the Honourable Minister give an assurance that the extent of land taken up for cinchona plantation will not be so curtailed as will entail the many thousands of labourers employed in this industry going out of employment?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: As far as an assurance of that type is concerned, I cannot give it because it all depends upon the amount of quinine that the Governments of the Provinces and States of India will purchase. But for this year at any rate the cinchona plantations are continuing to function as before and no reduction has been made.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: A few months back there was a conference to revise the policy of the Government in regard to cinchona plantation. Will the Government lay before the House a copy of that report and also take the House into confidence before they come to any decision in regard to reduction in cinchona plantation?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The decision, as I have already told the Honourable Member, was that for the next year there was to be no reduction in the production of quinine and the Madras Government is actually increasing its production.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether Government consider quinine as a harmless and effective remedy for malaria or whether the remedy is more harmful than the malady?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: In reply to part (f) of the question the Honourable Minister stated that figures are not available. May I know whether she is in a position to state whether malaria at present is on the increase compared with the previous year or what the position is?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would have to have notice of that question if it is put in terms of the whole of India. But I venture to submit that I do not think it is on the increase.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Has it come to the notice of the Government that specially in the hilly tracts of India more than fifty per cent. of deaths are due to malaria?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am not aware of the exact figures. As I have said it is very difficult to get figures of a disease which is not notifiable. But we are aware of those districts where malaria is more extant than in others.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: May I know what attempts are being made to manufacture paludrine in India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already replied to that question also, that when the Penicillin Factory comes into being paludrine will also be manufactured.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In view of the fact that the Government seem to be committed to the manufacture of paludrine, have they revised their policy with regard to quinine?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I think that point has been already covered in my replies. There is no question of a revision of policy. The quinine production is maintained at the same level for the next year. But in view of the fact that synthetic drugs, paludrine in particular, are more effective and cheaper, Government naturally have to consider its use.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether in the Centrally Administered Areas malaria is on the increase or decrease this year as compared with the previous year?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It has definitely decreased.

Shri Upendranath Barman: Will the Honourable Minister assure the House that there is no large accumulation of quinine in the cinchona factory at Mungloo in West Bengal?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would have to have notice of that question.

ECONOMY COMMITTEE

*622. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state what were the recommendations of the Economy Committee for each Ministry and what were the reactions of the Ministry concerned and the Standing Committee of that Ministry relating to these proposals?

(b) What actual economy has been caused in each Ministry?

(c) What are the differences between the proposals of the Economy Committee and those of the Government regarding their implementation?

(d) What is the net saving in each Ministry?

(e) Has economy been effected by the retrenchment of staff?

(f) If so, what is the number and designation of staff retrenched in each Ministry?

(g) Is the retrenched staff dispensed with or re-employed in other Departments?

(h) From what date have the proposals come into effect?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) to (c). A copy of the Economy Committee's Reports is placed on the Table of the House [*Placed in the Library. See Nos. IV-O.O(62), IV-O.O(63) and IV-O.O(64).*]

As regards the action taken thereon, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the Floor of the House to Starred Question No. 386, asked by Shri Basanta Kumar Das on the 7th December, 1949.

(d) to (f). Information regarding these as a result of the *ad hoc* lump sum cut is not at present available, but it will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

(g) Information is not readily available.

(h) The *ad hoc* cut was generally applied from October, 1949.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The other day the Honourable Minister stated that the Report of the Economy Committee will be sent to each Member. May I know whether he is prepared to send it to each Member or proposes to be content with placing it on the Table of the House?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I find on enquiry that there are not quite enough copies. So I am doing the next best thing.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: With respect to questions arising out of parts (e), (f) (g) and (h), will the Honourable Minister at least indicate to the House as to what is the total number of personnel that has been retrenched and what has been the monetary effect of it? Will he give some idea of it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I would suggest to the Honourable Member that details regarding the implementation of these economy proposals would be available to the House during the Budget discussion and would suggest to him that he should wait till then.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Have the Government kept in view that activities of such Departments as are doing social and welfare service are not hampered as a result of any economy measure?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: These are among the various considerations that Government keep in mind.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Have retrenchments been made or are they proposed to be made at the sweet will of the Departmental heads or is it on the basis of any principle?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not at anybody's sweet will but as a matter of hard necessity.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Even if it is as a measure of necessity I want to know if such retrenchments are proposed to be made, if any, at the option of the Departmental heads or according to any procedure or principle. That is the simple question.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think, Sir, I told the House last week when a similar question was put to me, that the policy of Government with regard to effecting economy is that they would try to do it as far as possible without large-scale retrenchment. That is one of the matters which they have in mind on this question.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that this question be better held over for answer in the Budget discussion. In view of that, may I know whether he will still not consider printing more copies of the Economy Committee's Report so that the Members may study it and be prepared to take part in the Budget discussion on this matter.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I would suggest to my honourable friend that since we have practically superseded the Economy Committee's proposals, since we have gone far ahead of those proposals, it is not going to serve my honourable friend's purpose to have this unnecessary expenditure incurred.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Will this retrenchment affect the Harijan servants in the Secretariat?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have not made any caste or class distinction in this matter.

Sjt. Kuladhar Ohaliha: May I know whether the economy drive had led to inefficiency?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I believe it is gradually raising the standard of efficiency.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Is there any truth in the allegation that about 10,000 employees are surplus to the real requirements of the Central Secretariat?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: As the 12½ per cent. proportion fixed for the Scheduled Castes in the Government services has not been reached, will the Government consider the advisability of not retrenching any of the Scheduled Caste people from the departments?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether as a result of the implementation of the recommendations of the Economy Committee's Report or otherwise, the

retrenchment axe will fall more on the gazetted staff or on the clerical establishment?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I told my honourable friend Mr. Sidhva that we are trying to avoid retrenchment on a large-scale.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Is any compensation proposed to be paid to employees who have been retrenched or are likely to be retrenched, to enable them to tide over the period of unemployment?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If we reach a stage where retrenchment on a large-scale unfortunately and unexpectedly becomes necessary, that certainly is a proposal that will be taken into account.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Was the question of enquiring into our trade balances also within the purview of this Economy Committee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

CUSTOMS IRREGULARITY

*623. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on or about the 15th July, 1949, the Maharao of Kutch refused to show his suit case to the customs authorities for purposes of assessment when he landed in Bombay from America?

(b) If so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

(c) Is the Maharao or any of his relations exempted from the levy of customs duty on personal articles brought by them and if so, under what Act?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) His Highness the Maharao of Kutch is entitled to exemption from import duty in respect of articles comprising his personal baggage. Such exemption would be admissible to the members of his family also, in case they travel with him. Section 75 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 read with Section 24 of the same Act, contains the necessary authority for Government granting exemptions regarding baggage.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In view of the fact that the Members of Parliament are not going to be more than the number of Rulers who are gone, would the Honourable Minister consider the suggestion that the Members of this House should be exempt from customs duties?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, Sir.

CLERICAL STAFF

*624. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of clerical staff in the Central Secretariat of the Government of India and the total salary paid to them during the years 1939, 1948 and upto September 1949; and

(b) the number of Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Under Secretaries, and Assistant Secretaries in various Ministries during the above periods, and also salaries paid to them.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Two statements giving the required information are placed on the Table of the House (See Appendix XVI, annexure No. I).

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What are the totals of (a) and (b)?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I take it the Honourable Member wants the latest figures?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Yes.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: On 1st September, 1949, the total number of ministerial staff was 6,718. That is for the first eight months of the year 1949. Against that the total expenditure for the same period is about Rs. 80 lakhs.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Is it a fact that there are more Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries in the Government of India now than there were during the war period, but without a corresponding increase in efficiency?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There has been a very large increase in work since we became an independent country and correspondingly it has been necessary also to increase the staff. That is the experience of all countries that have introduced a democratic form of Government.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the total number and amount under (b)?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is very difficult to give the total number—I have got a very detailed statement and if my honourable friend has any doubts or wants to get any arithmetic done for him I am at his disposal.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Such questions should be better put as Unstarred Questions, and if any particular points have to be asked as supplementaries then those questions can be placed before this House.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: That would take very long, Sir.

MENTAL DISEASES

*625. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the number of persons in India who suffer from mental diseases?

(b) How many cases are cured?

(c) Are there any instances whereby insane persons have been cured in hospitals?

(d) How many beds are provided for mental patients in India?

(e) What are the causes for the increased number of mental diseases?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). It is not possible to give precise information as no survey of cases of mental diseases has been carried out so far. The only information which can be given is about the number of admissions of such cases in the mental hospitals in India and the number of discharges after cure. This information is being collected from the Provincial Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as available.

(c) Yes. There are many instances.

(d) A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the House (See *Appendix XVI, annexure No. 2, statement I*).

(e) The causes for the increase are many. I place on the Table of the House extracts from notes recorded on the subject by two experts, Dr. M. V. Govindaswamy, Superintendent, Mental Hospital, Bangalore, and Major R. B. Davis, Medical Superintendent, Inter-Provincial Mental Hospital, Ranchi which provide some explanation (See *Appendix XVI, annexure No. 2, statement II*).

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether any medical experts have given the figures of total number of persons suffering from mental diseases and the total number of beds required?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already stated that no mental survey has been done and therefore I cannot give the number of patients suffering from mental diseases in India. But I can give the numbers in the hospitals and I have given in my statement the names of the mental hospitals in India and the number of beds in those hospitals.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether monogamy is also one of the causes of mental diseases?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: With reference to part (e) may I know whether any new causes have been discovered or the causes mentioned are the old ones?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There are no new causes of insanity, but in India recently owing to the upheaval lots of persons have suffered mentally because of shocks and have been sent to our asylums.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know whether the number of female patients suffering from mental diseases is greater than that of the males?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have no information on that point, but I don't think so.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are these mental hospitals run on modern lines and staffed with expert doctors trained in modern methods to cure these mental aberrations or are these only detention camps for insane persons?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir. The hospitals are manned, as far as possible, by experts and those who have special training in psychiatry.

Maulana Hasrat Mohani: May I know the name of the province which has the largest number of insanes?

An Honourable Member: U.P.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the number of insanes has increased after the attainment of freedom?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There seems to have been a slight increase.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

*626. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the names of the institutions in India, where post-graduate training is given to medical graduates?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: A list of institutions where post-graduate training is imparted to medical graduates is placed on the Table of the House (See *Appendix XVI, annexure No. 3*).

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether these institutions are under the direct control of the Central Government?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether every one of these institutions is financially helped by the Central Government?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Inasmuch as the Central Government give grants to provinces for their schemes.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: How many of these institutions are under the direct management of the Central Government?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I think the Central Government have about six institutions under their care.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether any special arrangements in any of these institutions are made for post-graduate training in orthopaedics?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know in which of them?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I think Bombay, Madras and Lucknow have orthopaedic training.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Any one at Delhi?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Would the Honourable Minister kindly tell us which are the institutions that are to be upgraded?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: None have been upgraded, but the Government of India have a scheme to upgrade eight institutions straightaway. The Government Hospital for Women and Children, the Madras Medical College (the Anatomy Department), the Madras Medical College (the Venereal Diseases Department), the Tata Memorial Hospital in Bombay in collaboration with the Seth Govardandas Sunderdas Medical College, the Patna Medical College, Mental Hospital in Bangalore, Department of T.B. in the Delhi University and the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health in Calcutta.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether some of the examinations of the British post-graduate medical training like M.R.C.P. and F.R.C.S. are still held in this country?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: They are no longer held in this country.

MALARIA INSTITUTE OF INDIA

*627. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state when the Malaria Institute of India first came into existence?

(b) Is there any other similar institution anywhere in India and if so, where is it situated?

(c) How many students are taking training in the institute at present?

(d) What is the total expenditure incurred by Government on this Institution up-to-date?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The Malaria Institute of India, originally known as Malaria Survey of India, was founded in 1927 by the

Indian Research Fund Association. The Public Health Section of the Institute was taken over by Government on the 1st April, 1940, and the Research Section and the Southern India Branch were taken over on the 1st March, 1946.

(b) No. In fact it is a unique Institute in the East.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Expenditure incurred by Government from the 1st April, 1940, up to the 30th September, 1949, is Rs. 16,54,309.

STATEMENT

Number of students who took training in Malaria Course at the Malaria Institute of India during 1949

Course	Number of Courses held	Duration of Course	Number of Students
Malaria Course for Medical Officers	one	three months	Eighteen (including two from Siam, two from Afghanistan, one from Ceylon and one from Nepal. Candidates from Burma could not join.)
Malaria Course for Malaria Inspectors	two	one month	53
Malaria Course for Engineers	one	one week	31

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether this Malaria Institute has any practical demonstration classes for the prevention of malaria as part of its curriculum?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It has.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the methods adopted or taught by the Malaria Institute differ substantially from those adopted by the Demonstration Team that has come from W.H.O.?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No. They do not differ.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the teaching staff of this Malaria Institute are less qualified than members of the Demonstration Team for Malaria that has come from W.H.O.?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: With regard to (b), considering the size of the country and the incidence of the disease in the country, do Government propose to have some more institutions of this kind established in other parts of the country?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government have many schemes for the expansion of such and other institutions.

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS

*628. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state what has been the effect of the new system of education in Delhi University, viz., opening of higher secondary schools with 11 years course followed by three years' degree course?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ہائیر سیکنڈری ایجوکیشن کا یہ سسٹم صرف پانچ برس ہوئے کہ چلایا گیا ہے۔ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا سینٹرل ایڈوائزری بورڈ آف ایجوکیشن کے اس تجویز پر آجکل سوچ بچار کر رہی ہے۔ کہ ایک سیکنڈری ایجوکیشن کمیشن بنھایا جائے جو اس معاملہ کے تمام پہلوؤں کی جانچ پڑتال کرے اور اپنی رپورٹ گورنمنٹ کے سامنے رکھے۔ گورنمنٹ خیال کرتی ہے کہ اس بارے میں تھیک رائے اسی سے دی جا سکتی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The system of Higher Secondary Education by which a student leaves the school after an eleven year course has been in operation for a period of five years only. Government is however, considering the recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education to appoint a Secondary Education Commission which will after an enquiry into all matters connected with Secondary Education and surveying the systems prevalent in India, make a report to the Government of India.

سےٹ گوویند داس : کیا یہ سہی نہیں ہے کہ ان پانچ वर्षों में जो तर्क है वह संतोषजनक है ?

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the experiment made during these five years has proved to be successful?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : لوکل گورنمنٹ کا رپورٹ یہ ہے کہ یہ تجربہ کامیاب ہوا ہے۔ دعویٰ برائے درستگی کے وائس چانسلر کی بھی یہی رائے ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The report of the Local Government is that this experiment has proved a success. This is also the opinion held by the Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University.

سےٹ گوویند داس : अगर यह तजुर्बा कामयाब हुआ तो क्या इस सम्बन्ध में गवर्नमेंट भिन्न भिन्न प्रान्तों को लिखेगी कि वह भी इस चीज को स्थान दें ?

Seth Govind Das: If this experiment proves a success, will Government write to different Provinces that they should also make provision to this effect?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : چونکہ اس معاملہ کے دوسرے پہلو بھی گورنمنٹ کے سامنے آئے ہیں اس لئے یہ مناسب سمجھا گیا کہ ایک ہائیر سیکنڈری کمیشن بنھایا جائے جو تمام پہلوؤں پر غور کرے تاکہ اس بارے میں مناسب قدم اٹھائے جائیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Because other aspects of this matter have also been brought before the Government, it has, therefore, been considered expedient that a Higher Secondary Commission should be appointed which may study all the points so that proper action may be taken in this matter.

مولانا حسرت موہانی : کیا یہ امر واقعہ ہے کہ تمام ورنیکولر سکول بند کر دیئے گئے ہیں - اور اگر کئے گئے ہیں تو کیوں ؟

Maulana Hasrat Mohani: Is it a fact that all Vernacular Schools have been closed, and if so, why?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں نہیں سمجھتا کہ جو بات آنریبل ممبر پوچھتے ہیں اسکا اس سوال سے کیا تعلق ہے ؟

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I do not understand how does this arise out of this question?

شری راج بھادور : क्या माननीय मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो उन्होंने बताया कि उपाय सफल हुआ है तो वह किस प्रकार और किस रूप में सफल हुआ है ?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state how and in what form the experiment has proved to be a success?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : لوکل گورنمنٹ کی رپورٹ یہ ہے کہ ایک برس کے بچہ جانے سے قابلیت کا سٹینڈرڈ بڑھ گیا ہے اور جو لڑکے یونیورسٹی میں جاتے ہیں وہ زیادہ بہتر طریقہ سے تیار ہو کر جاتے ہیں - اس کے علاوہ دوسری باتیں بھی ہیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The report of the Local Government says that by increasing one year the standard of ability has been raised, and those students who go to the University, are better prepared. Apart from this, there are other things also.

بیگم اعجاز رسول : کیا محترم وزیر صاحب یہ بتا سکتے ہیں کہ صوبوں سے بھی کوئی رپورٹ آئی ہے کہ کسی صوبے میں اس طرح یہ ہائیڈ سیکنڈری ایجوکیشن کا تجربہ شروع کیا گیا ہے ؟

Begum Aizaz Rasul: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether any report has been received from Provinces that experiments in this system of Higher Secondary Education have been started there?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : نہیں ایسی کوئی رپورٹ نہیں آئی ہے اور جہاں تک گورنمنٹ کو معلوم ہے شاید دوسرے صوبوں میں یہ تجربہ نہیں کیا گیا ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No. No such report has been received and so far as Government are aware this experiment has not perhaps been made in other Provinces.

سردار بھوپیندر سنگھ مان : اس چیز کے پیش نظر کہ ہائیڈ سیکنڈری سکول

کی یہ تعلیم کامیاب ثابت ہوئی ہے جہاں تک قابلیت کا تعلق ہے باقی وہ کونسا پہلو ہے جس کے لئے یہ ضرورت محسوس ہوئی ہے کہ یہ کمیشن ہتھیایا جائے ؟

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: In view of the fact that this system of Higher Secondary Education has proved a success, so far as ability is concerned, may I know what are the other points which have necessitated the appointment of this Commission?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : دوسرے پوائنٹوں میں یہ طریقہ اختیار نہیں کیا گیا ہے - اب اگر کوئی ویدیارتھی باہر سے دہلی میں آتا ہے یا یہاں سے کوئی ویدیارتھی دوسرے صوبے میں جاتا ہے تو اسے دقتیں پیش آتی ہیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This system has not been introduced in other Provinces. Of course, if any student comes to Delhi from outside or goes from here to some other Province, difficulties do arise.

شری راج بھادور : जो माननीय मंत्री ने कहा कि काबलियत बढ़ जाती तो उसके जांचने का क्या तरीका है ? क्या उपाय है ?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Honourable Minister has stated that the standard of ability is raised. May I know what is the criterion or method of judging that?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں نے ابھی کہا ہے کہ اس معاملہ کے بہت سے پہلو ہیں ایک پہلو جو ہمارے سامنے پانچ برس کے زمانے میں آیا ہے وہ یہ ہے کہ اسکا نتیجہ اچھا نکلا - ادھر یونیورسٹی کمیشن کی سفارہ ہے کہ کم از کم بارہ برس کی مدت ہو - وہ ایک برس اور بڑھانا چاہتے ہیں اور گیارہ کی جگہ بارہ کرنا چاہتے ہیں - یہ تمام پہلو ایسے ہیں کہ ایک کمیشن کو ان پر پوری طرح غور و فکر کرنا چاہیئے - صحیح دئے اسی وقت قائم کی جا سکیگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I have just stated that this matter has got manifold aspects. One thing which has come before us during the period of five years is that it has yielded good results. The University Commission have, however, recommended that the period should at least be twelve years; they want to increase one more year, and wish to make it twelve instead of eleven. All these aspects are of such a nature that these should be carefully considered by a Commission. An opinion could only be formed at then.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Has the University Commission made any recommendation in regard to this matter? If so, will the Report of the Commission be made available to Honourable Members of this Assembly?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ مشکل ہے - یونیورسٹی کمیشن کی رپورٹ کی تہذیبی کامیابی گئی ہے اور اس طرح ان کو تقسیم کرنا گورنمنٹ کے لئے مشکل ہوگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This is difficult as only a limited number of copies of the Report of the University Commission have been printed and it will not be possible for the Government to distribute them.

श्री सीताराम एस० जाजू : क्या माननीय मिनिस्टर साहब यह बतावेंगे कि जिन सबों और रियासतों यूनिवर्सिटी में नये बोर्ड कायम होने वाले हैं वहां इस तरह के बोर्ड कायम होंगे ?

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether such Boards will be set up in those Provinces and States Unions where new Boards are going to be constituted?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس طرح کی کوئی معلومات گورنمنٹ کے پاس نہیں ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government are not aware of any such thing.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Has this new system of education been accepted by any other University in India?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جہاں تک گورنمنٹ کو معلوم ہے - نہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No, so far as Government are aware.

بابو رامنارayan सिंह : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जब एक्सपेरिमेंट (experiment) हो चुके और एक्सपेरिमेंट्स (experiments) की सफलता भी मालूम हो चुकी तब और कमीशन बैठाने को क्या जरूरत है ? जहां जहां एक्सपेरिमेंट्स हुए और सफलता हो गयी वहां यह लागू क्यों नहीं किया जाता ?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: May I know, Sir, what is the necessity of appointing another Commission after experiments have been made and their success proved? What are the reasons for not enforcing this in those places where experiments have been made and success achieved?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : کمیشن صرف اسی بات پر غور کرنے کیلئے نہیں بٹھایا جا رہا ہے۔ جس طرح یونیورسٹی کمیشن یونیورسٹی ایجوکیشن کے لئے بٹھایا گیا تھا، اسی طرح سیکنڈری ایجوکیشن کے معاملہ پر از سر نو غور کرنے کے لئے ایک کمیشن کی ضرورت سمجھی گئی ہے۔ کمیشن جہاں اور باتوں پر غور کریگا، وہاں اس مسئلہ پر بھی غور کیا جائیگا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Commission is not being appointed to consider over this particular aspect only. Just as the University Commission was appointed in connection with the University education, similarly the necessity to constitute a Commission to consider *de novo* the question of secondary education has been felt. The Commission will also *inter alia* consider over this matter.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Has the Government received any representations from any secondary school or other institution seeking financial help as this system has involved them in great cost?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : نہیں۔ اس وقت کوئی ایسی درخواست گورنمنٹ کے سامنے نہیں ہے۔ لیکن یقیناً خرچ بڑھ گیا ہے، اور ہر تعلیمی ریفارم سے خرچ بڑھیکا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No. No such representation is at present under the consideration of the Government. But surely the expenditure has been increased, and every educational reform is bound to raise the expenditure.

श्री सीताराम एस० जाजू : क्या गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया जिन नूवों में नये बोर्ड कायम होने वाले हैं उनको यह सलाह देगी कि वहां इस तरह के बोर्ड कायम किये जायें ?

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: Will Government of India advise the Provinces, where new Boards are likely to be set up, to constitute similar Boards?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا سیکنڈری ایجوکیشن کمیشن کی رپورٹ کے بعد ان باتوں پر غور کریگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government of India will consider over these aspects after the receipt of the report of the Secondary Education Commission.

HINDI ACADEMY

*629. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state if in view of the fact that Hindi has been declared to be the State Language, an Academy is going to be established which may be engaged in research and improvement of the proposed State Language by (i) compiling suitable dictionaries; (ii) publication of literature in subjects which do not have sufficient books; and (iii) publication of popular books on culture at cheap rates for the masses of India?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ایجوکیشن منسٹری دو اسکیمیں پر دھیان دے رہی ہے۔ ایک یہ کہ سائنٹیفک ٹرمس کے لئے ہندی اور دوسری ہندوستانی بھاشاؤں کی ڈکشنری بنائی جا سکے۔ دوسری یہ کہ ٹیکسٹ بک تیار کی جائیں۔ منسٹری سے جو مہیکیزین "دیوالی" نام کا نکل رہا ہے کو انگریزی اور ہندی دونوں میں نکالنے کا بھی خیال کیا گیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں کچھ اور کام بھی گورنمنٹ کے سامنے ہیں۔ مگر دیکھنا یہ ہے کہ آجکل کی فائنڈنشل پوزیشن کہاں تک ساتھ دیکھی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This Ministry has under active consideration a scheme to prepare a dictionary of Scientific Terminology for Hindi and other Modern Indian Languages and another to prepare text books in the Federal Language. It is also proposed to publish this Ministry's periodical *Deepavali* devoted to the 'education and welfare of the blind', both in English and Hindi. There are other schemes also before the Government which they intend to implement provided the financial position allows.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या गवर्नमेंट को यह बात मालूम है कि इस तरह के प्रयत्न कुछ प्रांतों में हो रहे हैं, खासकर मध्य प्रांत में, और यह भिन्न भिन्न प्रकार के प्रयत्न यदि हुए तो कई तरह की चीजें इस सम्बन्ध में आ जायेंगी ? क्या गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ नहीं करेगी ?

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that similar efforts are also being made in some of the Provinces, especially in the Central Provinces, and if these different attempts are made, many kinds of new things will come into being? Will not the Government of India do anything in this matter?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ کے سامنے یہ بات ہے گورنمنٹ چاہتی ہے کہ ایک سنٹرل باقی اس کام کے لئے قائم کر دے تاکہ تمام ملک میں ایک ہی تھنگ پر قدم اُٹے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This matter is under the consideration of the Government. Government desire that a Central body should be constituted to look after the work so that uniform action is taken throughout the country.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या गवर्नमेंट इस बात को भी सोच रही है कि हिन्दी साहित्य सम्मेलन के सदस्य जो बहुत पुरानी संस्थाएं हैं उन में भी इस सम्बन्ध में सलाह ली जाय।

Seth Govind Das: Are Government also considering that the advice of old institutions like the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan is sought in this connection?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ ضرور اس پر غور کرے گی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government will surely consider it.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know, Sir, what step Government are taking to enrich this language, namely, Hindi, which has still to be developed by absorbing words which are in common use from other Provincial languages? Is it the function of this Academy to concern with that matter also?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ہاں۔ یہ ضروری کام ہے۔ لیکن ابھی تک اس بارے میں گورنمنٹ کو موقع نہیں ملا ہے کہ وہ کوئی پریکٹیکل قدم اٹھائے۔ گورنمنٹ کوشش کریگی اور جہاں تک حالت ساتھ دیکھی اس مقصد کے لئے کام کیا جائیگا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes. This is an essential work. But so far Government had no opportunity to take practical steps. Government will make every effort and so far as circumstances permit, action will be taken to achieve this end.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : माननीय मंत्रीजी ने यह बात बही कि इस समय जो आर्थिक स्थिति है उसको देखते हुए यह काम किया जायगा। क्या गवर्नमेंट इस बात पर भी विचार करेगी कि इस समय जैसी आर्थिक स्थिति है वैसी रहने पर भी यह काम बहुत जरूरी है और किया जाना चाहिये ?

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Minister has stated that action in this matter will be taken provided the present financial position allows. Will Government also consider the aspect that despite the present financial position the work is most essential and should be undertaken?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ ضرور سوچے گی لیکن یہ ظاہر ہے کہ جب تک

تھیلی کا منہ نہیں کھلتا ہم ضرورت کی مانگوں کو لیکر کیا کر سکتے ہیں ؟

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government will certainly consider. But it is quite obvious that unless funds are made available, what can we do to meet the demands?

सेठ गोविन्द दास : तो क्या गवर्नमेंट इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि जो और कई थैलियां हैं उनका मुंह बन्द कर दिया जाय और इस थैली का मुंह खोल दिया जाय ?

Seth Govind Das: Will Government then consider the desirability to appropriate funds from other items of expenditure and to utilize them for this purpose?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں اس خواہش میں آنریبل ممبر کے ساتھ ہوں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I associate myself with this desire of the Honourable Member.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Has the Government examined the debates of the Constituent Assembly on the resolution for adoption of Hindi as the national language? If so, how is Government going to implement that resolution? Will they associate experts in other non-Hindi languages with this Academy?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : کانستیتیوینٹ اسمبلی میں اس بارے میں جو کچھ طے پایا ہے اس کے مطابق گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا ضرور قدم اُٹھائیگی اور پوری طرح کوشش کریگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Government of India will surely take steps to implement the decision arrived at in this connection by the Constituent Assembly and do their utmost in the matter.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Are the Government aware where there are other institutions also which concern themselves with the propagation of Hindustani will their advice be sought?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ ضرور یہ بات سامنے رکھے گی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government will certainly keep this in view.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: In view of the valuable work already done in this field by the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, Madras, will Government consider giving financial assistance to that body?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس بارے میں مشکل ہے کہ میں کئی وعدہ کر سکوں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It is difficult for me to hold out any promise in this connection.

سردار بھوپندر سنگھ مان : ہندی کے متعلق جو کچھ قدم حکومت کی طرف سے اٹھایا جا رہا ہے کیا میں اُمید کروں کہ ہندی کی طرح جو اور زبانیں جیسے ہندوستانی ہیں ان کی بھی خیال رکھا جائیگا ؟

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I expect that action which will be taken by the Government with regard to Hindi shall also be taken in respect of other similar languages, such as Hindustani?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ہاں - گورنمنٹ تمام پہلوؤں کو سامنے رکھتیگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes. Government will keep all the aspects in view.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

سےٹ گوویند داس : کیا گورنمنٹ इसی کے ساتھ یہ विचार नहीं रखेगी कि हिन्दी और हिन्दुस्तानी का झगड़ा खत्म हो गया, कांस्टीट्यूट असेम्बली के निर्णय के बाद, और(Interruption).

Seth Govind Das: Will not the Government keep this in view, now that the controversy between Hindi and Hindustani is over after the decision taken by the Constituent Assembly, and.....(Interruption).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member is an old Parliamentarian and ought to know that this is not a discussion on a Resolution or a Bill. It is Question Hour. I have called the next question.

Seth Govind Das: But I want to appeal to you, Sir.....

Several Honourable Members: Order, order.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Will the Honourable Member resume his seat?

Seth Govind Das: I want to appeal to you, Sir, that nobody else but the Chair can call me to order within the House.—(Interruption).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I may have to adjourn the House if this continues. The Chair is in a position to take care of itself and Honourable Members need not say "Order, Order". It is for the Chair to do it. In the midst of this huge noise the Honourable Member who is asked by the Chair to resume the seat is possibly not able to hear me. I have repeatedly asked the Honourable Member. He is an old Member of this House. I am exceedingly sorry that he has not resumed his seat and is still going on speaking, though I have called the next question.

Seth Govind Das: I could not hear you on account of this noise. (Interruption).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I cannot allow this. I do not want the assistance of the Honourable Members to keep order in this House. I shall try to do it to the best of my ability. Next question.

An Honourable Member: Does not the Chair want the Members' co-operation?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Their co-operation is to keep silent.

BROADCASTING STATIONS

*630. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the number of new Broadcasting Stations proposed to be opened with their location?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Two during the current financial year—one at Dharwar and the second at Calicut.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the broadcasting station in Travancore which was formerly under the control of the State has been taken over now?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Not yet.

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: May I know if the Government propose to install a broadcasting station in Madhya Bharat?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I do not think so.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: May I know the K.W. power and the range of these two stations?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: They are pilot stations and they are of one K.W. power each.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether there is any proposal under consideration for changing the one K.W. station at Vijayawada into a more power station by increasing the metre strength of that station?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: That is the general proposal under the first development plan, but each case will require examination and then only those schemes will be taken up.

सेट गोविन्द दस : क्या जिन वाइकॉस्टिंग स्टेशनों पर अभी काफ़ी तावत के प्लान्ट नहीं हैं, जैसे नागपुर, उन स्टेशनों में कुछ परिवर्तन करने की गवर्नमेंट के सामने कोई योजना है ?

Seth Govind Das: May I know whether there is any plan under the consideration of the Government for making improvements in those broadcasting stations which are not equipped with sufficiently powerful plants, such as the one at Nagpur?

आनरेबल श्री आर. आर. दिवाकर : जहाँ तक नागपुर स्टेशन का ताल्लुक है, मेरी समझ में वह डेवलप (develop) हो रहा है।

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: So far as Nagpur is concerned, I think it is being developed.

Some Honourable Members: Rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I know whom to ask and whom not to ask. Seth Govind Das has put the question and I should give him greater opportunity.

सेट गोविन्द दस : जैसा परिवर्तन नागपुर स्टेशन में किया जाने वाला है, उसी प्रकार का परिवर्तन क्या दूसरे भी जो इस तरीके के स्टेशन्स हैं उनमें करने की योजना है ?

Seth Govind Das: Is there any plan to carry out improvements in other such stations also as those contemplated to be made in the Nagpur station?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I think I have replied to this when answering to Mrs. Durgabai's question.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know what happened to the opening of a station at Guntakkal which the Honourable Minister said he would consider when he answered a question sometime ago on the floor of this House?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: It is not yet a practical proposition.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: May I know if there is any proposal to open new stations in Amraoti and Jubbulpore, two important centres in C.P. and Berar?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: No. Not just now.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Will the Government in the near future consider the establishment of new stations in these two towns which are very important towns in the province?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: As I said, the whole thing is proceeding on a particular plan and in that plan these two cities have not been included.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: May I know whether any stations which were scheduled to be opened this financial year have been suspended due to the economy drive?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: These two were stations that were proposed for construction and they are being opened.

Shri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Government see to it that these two stations mentioned by the Honourable Minister are established before the end of the financial year?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: It all depends upon certain technical difficulties. If these difficulties are more, then naturally it will take a little more time.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Has the Government appreciated that inconvenience is caused to the public of the province of C.P. by the Nagpur Station broadcasting both in Marathi and Hindi?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Today we are doing it on a 50:50 basis for both and I think it is satisfactory.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: May I know whether there is any proposal to take over the Mysore Akasvani?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Yes, there is a proposal.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether the proposal to construct a new building for the broadcasting station at Madras which is recommended by the engineers as it is in a dilapidated condition, has been affected by this economy drive? If not so, may I know how the working is progressing?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: It is not to be taken up immediately.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: May I know whether the new stations that were recently set up are sufficiently staffed and working satisfactorily?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Does the Honourable Member refer to Dharwar and Calicut?

Shri O. V. Alagesan: I mean the comparatively new stations.

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: There are particular standards according to which these pilot stations are running and these standards are being maintained.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether the broadcasting station at Jodhpur is under the authority and control of the Central Government or the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: It is not within the jurisdiction of the Central Government.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether the Government proposes to take it over in the near future?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: All stations in the States will be taken over.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether there is one broadcasting station for each language area in India?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I think each language area is served.

Sardar Hukam Singh: How many language areas have not even one station and how many language areas have more than one station?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: It is not a question of one station or two stations. All languages are served. Whether there is one station or two stations in any one area depends upon many circumstances.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What are the circumstances which Government considers when opening a station in any particular area?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Starting of a new station depends upon a number of factors, but we see to it that all major languages are served.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the Government sees to it that a station opened in a particular area is giving proper attention to all the other languages in that area?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That question is rather vague.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know whether the programme which the Honourable Minister placed before this House in the budget session is affected in view of the economy, whether economies are observed?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Economy cuts have been observed fully.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How many stations have been curtailed?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: There is no question of curtailing stations. It is only a question of curtailing expenditure.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या गवर्नमेंट को यह बात मालूम है कि कुछ दिन पहले माननीय मंत्री जी ने मेरे एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में यह कहा था कि एक पायलेट स्टेशन जबलपुर में भी खोलने का विचार किया जा रहा है, उस पायलेट स्टेशन के सम्बन्ध में क्या हुआ ?

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that a few days before, the Honourable Minister while replying to one of my questions had stated that the opening

of a pilot station at Jubbulpore was under consideration? May I know what decision has been arrived at in respect of that pilot station?

आनरेबल श्री आर० आर० दिवाकर : वह अभी कुछ नहीं हुआ ।

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Nothing has yet been done in that connection.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : तो क्या यह माना जाय कि वह विचार अब छोड़ दिया गया या इस पर फिर से विचार किया जा रहा है ?

Seth Govind Das: May I take it that that proposal has been abandoned or is it being considered afresh?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: It is not under immediate consideration.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In view of the fact that some of these stations have limited range, may I know from the Honourable Minister the reasons why broadcasting is not confined to the language spoken in that particular area and why other languages are introduced?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Only such languages as are spoken by the people in that area are allowed.

MATERNITY CENTRES

*631. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the number of maternity centres opened in 1948-49 in cities having a population of more than 50 thousand persons?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Maternity Centres opened in 1948-49 in cities with a population of over 60,000

Province, State or Union	City	Number of Maternity Centres opened
Bombay.	Bombay Fourteen } Belgaum One Dhulia One }	Sixteen
Madras.	Madras	Three
Assam.	Shillong	One
Ajmer-Merwara.	Ajmer	One
Patiala and East Punjab States Union.	Patiala	One
Rajasthan.	Udaipur	One
Travancore and Cochin.	Trivandrum Two Nazareth One }	Three

CHILDREN'S PARKS

*632. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of children's parks opened in Delhi?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : دہلی میں ایسے پارک دس ہیں ۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The number of Children's Parks in Delhi is ten.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Will the construction of the sports stadium which is proposed to be built in Delhi affect any of the existing children's parks in Delhi?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں ابھی اس کا جواب نہیں دے سکتا ۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot reply to this offhand.

شری دیپن بندمو گپتا : کیا یہ محسوس کیا جا رہا ہے کہ ایسے پارک اور بھی زیادہ ہونے چاہئیں ؟

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether Government feel that there should be more such parks?

سردار بھوپیندر سنگھ مان : کیا یہ امر واقعہ ہے کہ ان پارکوں کے پروگرام میں

کئی چندوں پارک جو دہلی میں موجود تھے اب اڑا دیئے گئے ؟

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether it is a fact that under the building programme many of the children's parks which existed in Delhi have disappeared?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ کے علم میں یہ بات نہیں آئی ۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This has not come to the knowledge of the Government.

INFANT MORTALITY

*633. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the infant mortality per thousand has been on the increase or decrease during the last five years and what special efforts have been made to substantially reduce the figure?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XVI, annexure No. 4.)

PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

*634. **Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the total cost of publications printed by the Publications Division during the year 1948 and during the first six months of the year 1949;

(b) the total sale proceeds of the priced publications during these periods; and

(c) the arrangements made for their sale?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) 1948—Rs. 5,63,940.

First six months of 1949—Rs. 2,77,101.

* Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(b) 1948—Rs. 1,30,662.

First six months of 1949—Rs. 84,893.

(c) The publications are sold through commercial channels, direct sales and subscriptions and Indian Missions abroad.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it a fact that Government publications are running under a loss and they do not sell in the market and if so, what are the reasons for that?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: There is no question of selling on profit. It is not a commercial proposition. Many of the publications are not commercial propositions, that is true.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: What are the considerations that guide the selection of the publications?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: That depends upon the necessity for publicising and that is considered by the different Ministries.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Is it a fact, Sir, that the popular aspect of a subject is mainly featured in these publications?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: That is one of the considerations.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it a fact, Sir, that many of the personal activities of the Ministers are given more publicity than other matters?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I do not think so.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: May I know whether these publications are widely advertised amongst the public with a view to promote their sale?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I think so.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: May I know, Sir, if these publications are sent to the newspapers and periodicals for notice or review as soon as they are published?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Many publications have been noticed and reviews also have appeared.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: I want to know whether as a general rule these publications are sent to newspapers and periodicals.

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: To most of the important newspapers they are sent.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know what is the total number of periodicals and magazines printed under this Publications Division and what is their total cost?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I would like to have notice of that question.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: With regard to part (a), is there any Board of editors attached to this Publications Division and whether experienced newspaper editors or writers of repute are associated with this editorial Board.

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Yes, certainly. When the editors are appointed, their writing experience is taken into consideration.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Are they whole-time paid staff or honorary?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: They are whole-time paid staff.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is there any proposal that the Government should associate men of literary repute in an honorary capacity with regard to this Publications Division?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Many contributors are men of literary repute.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Has the Honourable Minister any idea of what percentage of these publications are read by the public?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: All those who buy, do read.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Is it a fact that the publication of the Information and Broadcasting magazine has been stopped?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: There was no Information and Broadcasting Magazine as such.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the cost of production of the publications, particularly the monthlies and fortnightly is very much higher than what it is of non-official publications of a similar type?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I do not think so.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether effect is being given to the recommendations made by the Economy Committee with regard to the suspension of some periodicals and magazines, and if so, what are the magazines suspended and what is the saving?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Action has been taken accordingly, but I do not just remember and can't give the names but if the Honourable Member wants it, I shall provide them.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is the Government having these publications printed in all the major languages of India. If so, is there any publication being printed or has ever been printed in Punjabee language?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Government does not take up publication in all languages. Usually it is in English and Hindi and some of the magazines are in Urdu also.

Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact, Sir, that a substantial portion of the cost of these publications is incurred in giving photographs of the Ministers of the different provinces and the Centre?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Not, so.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: What is the percentage of expenditure on publications in Indian languages and what is the percentage of expenditure in English language?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: As I said, we do not take up publication in languages other than English and Hindi.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: My question is what is the percentage of expenditure on Hindi publications?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I would like to have notice of that question.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : जब हि. हिन्दी अब राज्य भाषा घोषित कर चुके हैं, तब दोनों भाषाओं पर, हिन्दी और अंगरेजी पर, समान रूप से खर्च करने का क्या अर्थ है ?

Seth Govind Das: Now that Hindi has been declared the State Language, may I know what is the idea of spending equivalent amounts on both Hindi and English publications?

आनरेबिल श्री आर० आर० दिवाकर : एक दम तो नहीं हो सकता है ।

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: This cannot be done outright.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : मैं क्या मान लू कि दह धीरे धीरे हो जायगा ?

Seth Govind Das: Shall I take it that this will be done gradually?

आनरेबिल श्री आर० आर० दिवाकर : हां धीरे धीरे तो जरूर होगा ।

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Yes, it will surely be done gradually.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : इस में कितना समय लगेगा ?

Seth Govind Das: How much time will this take?

आनरेबिल श्री आर० आर० दिवाकर : १५ बरस तो हैं ही ।

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: 15 years are already there.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या यह माना जाय कि १५ वर्ष के अन्दर कुछ नहीं होगा ?

Seth Govind Das: May I take it that nothing will be done during the period of fifteen years?

आनरेबिल श्री आर० आर० दिवाकर : आहिस्ता आहिस्ता होता जायगा ना ।

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: After all, this will be done gradually.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Sir, since the ceasing of the publication of the Indian Information, have Government realized the extent to which the public are in the dark with regard to their activities?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Not at all.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: What are the other channels through which Government propose to reach the public, which they were reaching hitherto through this Indian Information?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: What was prepared and published in the Indian Information was only a summary of all things that had already been published and there is enough publicity being given through the journals, and, therefore, I think the people are not losing anything.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the total number of copies of the English magazines and the Hindi magazines?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I want notice, please.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: If other non-official agencies come forward to publish these publications in other languages apart from Hindi or English, will the Government give them sufficient help and subsidy to publish them?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: No, please. It is not under consideration.

NATIONAL CADET CORPS

*635. **Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the period and nature of training undergone by the recruits to the National Cadet Corps; and

(b) the total estimated expenditure for raising the National Cadet Corps?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) National Cadet Corps Senior Division and Junior Division Cadets are enrolled for a period of two years extensible up to four years in the case of Senior Division cadets and up to three years in the case of Junior Division cadets. The Senior Division have an annual training Camp for fifteen days and the Junior Division for ten days. The nature of training is similar to that given in the Army. Cadets are trained in leadership, and full opportunity is given to them to train other cadets.

(b) The total expenditure in 1948-49 was Rs. 1,12,00,000. The expenditure in 1949-50 has been estimated at Rs. 1,45,00,000.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: May I ask whether the naval and air-force training has been arranged in all the units?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir; not for the present.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether at the time of recruitment to the regular army, the members of the National Cadet Corps are given any preference?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: These cadets have got better experience and naturally they would be given preference.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know the manner and method for the selection of the trainees for the National Cadet Corps?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The manner and method of selection of trainees, as the Honourable Member knows, depends on the institution in which the National Cadet Corps Unit is started and as regards the selection, the selection is made by officers specially trained for this purpose.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Has any unit been constructed where boys earning a livelihood are admitted?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir. The scheme at present is only limited to the educational institutions.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know the number of cadets trained so far at this cost of Rs. 1,12,00,000?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The Honourable Member if I rightly understood him, wants the total number of cadets trained, and I will require notice of that.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: What are the particular reasons to confine the scheme only to the educational institutions which are recognized by the Government or the universities and not extending them to the private institutions?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It all depends on the Provincial Governments to select the institutions in which they want to start the National Cadet Corps.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: May I know if girls are selected for this National Cadet Corps?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes.

NON-MUSLIM PRISONERS EXCHANGED WITH PAKISTAN

***636. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Non-Muslim prisoners exchanged with Pakistan have since been released?

(b) If not, what is the number still left inside the Jails?

(c) Do Government propose to look into their cases to satisfy themselves if they were not victims of communal frenzy and bias?

(d) Are Government aware that there is a good number of such prisoners in Delhi Jail who have served out their full sentences?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) 668.

(c) Yes. This aspect is constantly borne in mind when their cases are reviewed.

(d) No. There are no such persons in Delhi Jail.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

DISTRICT JAIL, DELHI

***637. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the maximum prescribed capacity of the District Jail, Delhi so far as prisoners are concerned?

(b) What was the monthly average number of prisoners confined in this Jail during this year?

(c) Are any steps under contemplation to relieve this pressure and to make this Jail more healthy?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 677.

(b) 1,254

(c) In order to relieve congestion and make the Jail more healthy, a Camp Jail has been opened in the premises of the Reformatory School, Delhi, with an accommodation for 1,000 prisoners. It has also been decided to raise the status of the District Jail, Delhi, to that of a Central-cum-District Jail with an accommodation for 1,500 prisoners as against 677 at present. Plans and estimates are under preparation, but actual implementation would necessarily depend on the availability of funds.

COMMUNIST CONVICTS

***638. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of alleged Communists against whom action has been taken by the Government of India during the last 6 months?

(b) What is the total number of Communists imprisoned or gaoled during 1949?

(c) Have Government satisfied themselves that all such persons against whom action was taken were communists?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 19.

(b) 33—ten in Delhi and twenty-three in Ajmer-Merwara.

(c) Yes.

ROYALTY TO PREFABRICATED HOUSING CONCERN

***639. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) what is the royalty, if any, paid to the Consulting firm in England (for the manufacture of pre-fabricated houses in India) for their patents;

(b) what is that "patent" that calls for payment of a royalty by the Government of India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the entire scheme has been in vogue for over fifteen years in Sweden and Germany; and

(d) whether Government propose to have this matter of "patent" of the consulting firm investigated by an expert committee of first rate Indian engineers?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Royalty will be paid to the firm on the panels to be actually manufactured in the Government Housing Factory on the following basis: (i) Rs. 5 per square (of 100 sq. ft.) for the first 100,000 squares of panels; (ii) Rs. 4 per square (of 100 sq. ft.) over 100,000 squares upto 400,000 square of panels; (iii) Rs. 3 per square (of 100 sq. ft.) over 400,000 squares upto 800,000 squares of panels; and (iv) Rs. 2 per square (of 100 sq. ft.) over 800,000 squares of panels.

(b) Indian patent No. 36001/46 referring to light weight foamed concrete panels.

(c) It is understood that the production of other types of foamed concrete was first undertaken in Germany in 1936 and that the first factory for its large scale production was installed in Munich in 1939. As regards Sweden it is understood that the foamed concrete method of prefabrication is not normally in use there.

(d) Does not arise.

MISUSE OF HEALTH CENTRE PREMISES

***640. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the premises of "Gwalior Cottage" on Lady Hardinge Road, New Delhi are utilised for a Government Health Centre;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the premises are also being used by an advocate for his professional legal work; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative whether Government have accorded him permission to set up such a legal chamber on the premises of the Health Centre, and if so, on what grounds and terms?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) 'Gwalior Cottage' on Lady Hardinge Road which belongs to the New Delhi Municipal Committee is the residence of the Superintendent of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres run by the Municipal Committee. The Cottage is separate from the building of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

(b) The husband of the present Superintendent of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is an advocate and he is doing his professional work in the Cottage.

(c) Does not arise.

PAYMENTS TO POETS BY A.I.R.

*641. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state if it is a fact that the poems of the Hindi poets of India like Messrs. Maithli Sharan Gupta, Makhanlal Chaturvedi and Sumitra Nandan Pant, are recited from the A.I.R. on payment to these authors at the rate of annas -/8/- per poem?

(b) What was the amount paid to each of the above named poets during the past one year?

(c) Is it also a fact that the heirs of late Sir Iqbal are paid Rs. 2,500/- annually for the recitations of his poems? How many of his poems were recited during the past 12 months?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table.

(c) (i) No, Sir.

(ii) 36. at the rate of Re. 1 per song broadcast.

STATEMENT

Amount paid and due to be paid for the broadcast of songs from 1-10-48 to 30-9-49 the following three Hindi Poets

Name	Amount paid	Amount due to be paid	Total
Shri Maithli Sharan Gupta	Rs. 123/-	Rs. 60/-	Rs. 183/-
„ Makhan Lal Chaturvedi	Rs. 5/-	Rs. 50/-	Rs. 55/-
„ Sumitra Nandan Pant.	Rs. 230/-	Rs. 104/-	Rs. 334/-
		Grand Total	Rs. 572/-

EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTS

*642. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the hours and days on which the educational broadcasts are put on the air from various Radio stations in India?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Timings of Educational Broadcasts from Various A. I. R. Stations

Station	Days of the week	Time
Delhi	Monday to Friday	Daily 2.30—3.00 P.M.
Bombay	Monday to Friday	Daily 4.20—5.00 P.M.
Calcutta	Monday to Saturday	Daily 6.10—6.25 P.M.
Madras		Daily 12.30—1.00 P.M.
Tiruchi and Vijayawada }	Monday to Friday	2.15—2.45 P.M. 4.00—4.30 P.M.

SERAIKELLA AND KHARSWAN STATES

*643. **Shri Yudhishtir Mishra:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from Congress Committees and other political organisations of the States of Seraikella and Kharswan and also from the Raja of Seraikella regarding the administration of these States by the Government of Bihar and the transference of their administration to the Government of Orissa?

(b) Have Government come to any decision on their representations and if so, what are the grounds on which such decisions, if any, have been taken?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given by me to Question No. 255 on 2nd December, 1949 and the Press Communique issued by the States Ministry on 23rd September, 1949.

DELEGATIONS TO W. H. O.

*644. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the names of the delegates from India to the World Health Organisation sittings in the years 1948 and 1949?

(b) What were the expenses incurred in connection with those delegates?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information required by the Honourable Member is placed on the Table of the House (See Appendix XVI, *annexure No. 5*.)

FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS

*645. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state: (i) the number of Indian students who have received foreign scholarships and fellowships in the years 1948-49 and 1949-50; (ii) from what countries; and (iii) in what subjects?

(b) How many and how much scholarships have been awarded to foreign students for study in the Indian Union during the same period?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: A statement giving information required in respect of (a) scholarships or fellowships granted to Indian students by foreign countries in 1948-49 and 1949-50 and (b) scholarships awarded during the same period to foreign students for study in the Indian Union is placed on the Table of the House (See Appendix XVI, *annexure No. 6, Statements I and II*).

AMERICAN FINANCIAL AID

*646. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a speech published in *The Statesman* (Calcutta) dated the 3rd November 1949, in which Mr. Dean Acheson, U. S. Secretary of State, made a few observations while addressing a C. I. O. Labour Convention in Cleveland, stating that U.S. aid to Asia was to be through technical assistance and not through billion dollar relief or construction project?

(b) Is it a fact that India has been hoping to get financial help from U.S.A. for the construction of her river valley projects?

(c) Will this not mean that such help will not be available for India?

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

(b) No. India has applied for loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is regarded as a specialized agency of the United Nations.

(c) No; as far as I can see, Mr. Dean Acheson's statement referred to direct financial assistance by the U.S.A. like the Marshall Aid, and has no connection with financial assistance from private enterprise or from international institutions in the U.S.A.

The programme of technical assistance to which Mr. Dean Acheson refers is a programme for making it possible for private enterprise to take capital abroad.

MERGER OF SAURASTRA UNION

*647. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that the people of Saurashtra Union are in favour of merger with the province of Bombay;

(b) whether the proposal is under the consideration of the Government of India; and

(c) if so, by which date the Government are likely to take final decision in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No occasion has arisen so far for ascertaining public opinion in the Union on this subject.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

GOVERNMENT LOANS

*648. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) what loans were floated by the Government of India since the commencement of the current financial year, when they were floated and what has been the response from the public; and

(b) whether any loans or securities had matured and were paid during the current financial year?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No new loans were floated but a further issue of the 2½ per cent. Loan, 1955, amounting to Rs. 25.44 crores was made in connection with the facilities offered for the conversion of the 8 per cent. Loan 1949-52.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government exercised the option of repaying three per cent. Loan 1949-52 on the 1st August 1949.

EASTERN FRONTIERS

*649. **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether he has visited Palel and Tamu in the Manipur border and Tirap frontiers on the Burma border?

(b) Has any party gone to fix up the Eastern boundary near Rima in Sadyu frontier tracts?

(c) Has any map been drawn up showing different outposts in the eastern frontiers?

(d) Has any road been constructed up to Rima?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). No.

(c) Yes. All military outposts are marked on maps used by the various military headquarters who control such outposts.

(d) No.

REPRESENTATION OF EX-MEDICAL OFFICERS

*650. { **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:**
 Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government have received representation from the Indian Medical Association for re-employment of medical officers released after the last war?

(b) If so, what action has been taken on their representation?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

MEDICAL OFFICERS IN BRITAIN

*651. { **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:**
 Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many I.M.S. and I.A.M.C. officers are posted in Great Britain and what are their functions there?

(b) Are there any officers posted in Great Britain for purchase of medical and surgical requirements for the Defence Medical Department and for Civil Medical Department?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XVI, annexure No. 7).

ACCOMMODATION FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

*652. { **Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:**
Sri Lakshminarayan Sahu:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of houses requisitioned in New Delhi for the Defence Department as accommodation for (i) officers; and (ii) offices?

(b) What is the number of officers excluding N.C.O's of the Defence Services who are now billeted in New Delhi?

(c) Are displaced persons housed in a number of empty barracks in Delhi Cantonment?

(d) Are Government aware that a soldier can keep his family for a shorter period than an officer under the Standing Rules in "family stations" and if so, what is the reason for this discrimination?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) (i) No houses have been specifically requisitioned for the Defence Services but of the houses requisitioned by the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power in Delhi, Defence Services officers occupy 25. (ii) Nil for office accommodation.

(b) 680.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. The reason for this is that in accordance with the Regulations for the Army in India, only a percentage of other ranks are allowed to have their families with them in the lines of the unit. To enable every married other rank to enjoy the benefits of family life, Officers Commanding units fix a maximum period for their stay so that the accommodation available may be allotted in turn to all. For officers no such restriction is laid down.

BALANCE OF PAYMENT WITH U. S. A.

*653. **Shri Upendranath Barman:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state how the balance of payment position of India with the United States of America has been since the year 1947?

(b) When did Government stop the Open General Licence in respect of the said country?

(c) What is the position during the last six months?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) I lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the position of India's balance of payments with the United States of America during the years 1947, 1948 and the first six months of 1949.

(b) Open General Licence No. VIII which allowed imports from all countries (including U.S.A.) was cancelled on 14th March, 1947.

(c) All imports from the U.S.A. are now subject to licensing and are limited to capital goods, raw materials, semi-manufactured and other essential goods not ordinarily available from other sources of supply. In this connection, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* No. 1(23)LT.C./49, dated the 12th September, 1949.

STATEMENT

India's Balance of Payments with the U. S.

(In lakhs of rupees)

1947			
	Receipts	Payments	Net
Total	99.68	178.74	-79.06
1948			
	Receipts	Payments	Net
Total	91.00	159.60	-68.60
Jan. — June, 1949			
	Receipts	Payments	Net
Total	39.80	77.54	-37.74

COMMUNIST CONVICTS

*654. **Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the amount that is being spent on the Communists detained by the Central Government;

(b) the privileges they enjoy; and

(c) the amount of monthly sundry allowances paid to them?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

ADULT EDUCATION

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

(a) the amount which the Government of India and the Provincial Governments together at present spend annually on adult education and on all items of education; and

(b) the percentage of revenue annually spent by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments separately on education as a whole?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). The total budget provision for education in 1949-50 was Rs. 6 crores which comes to 1.16 per cent. of the total budget of the Central Government. As a result of recent cut however the education budget has been reduced approximately to Rs. 4.51 crores which is .89 per cent. of the total budget.

Information from the Provinces is being collected.

RURAL ADULT EDUCATION

***656. Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of rural adult population were able to receive the benefit of education during the last two years in the various Provinces of India;

(b) whether Government have calculated the approximate total amount needed for adult education in the country; and

(c) the source or sources contemplated to be tapped for this purpose?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) In 1947-48 and 1948-49, 0.22 per cent. and 0.33 per cent. respectively of rural adult population were receiving education.

(b) The Government of India have estimated that a ten year scheme for education of illiterates within the age group 12-40 would cost Rs. 206 crores.

(c) The provincial and central governments are sharing the expenditure on adult education between themselves. Some municipalities are also meeting a part of expenditure on adult education work within their jurisdiction. The provincial governments are also encouraging voluntary organisations to make their contributions to adult education.

MERGING OF ENCLAVES OF STATE TERRITORIES

***657. Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the question of the merger of the several enclaves in the territories wherein they are situated; and

(b) the names and area of each of the enclaves of the Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur and PEPSU Union situated within the territories of the East Punjab and vice versa?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). In connection with the rationalisation of State boundaries, negotiations are still proceeding between the Provincial and Union Governments for the transfer of small enclaves to the Province or State in which they are situated. The information asked for will not be available till final decisions are reached.

CONSTITUTION OF THE DARJEELING AREA INTO A SEPARATE PROVINCE

***658. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation for the constitution of the Darjeeling area of the West Bengal Province into a separate hill province?

(b) If so, what is the policy of Government in regard to this question?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No; but I have seen Press reports of some such activities.

(b) Government of India consider this move as unreal, mis-conceived and harmful to national interests. Government of India is determined not to give any quarter to any agitation for the formation of any such Province and will not allow the solidarity of the country to be disturbed by such mischievous moves.

LOAN TO EAST PUNJAB

***659. Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Government of India have received any application from the Government of East Punjab for a grant or loan for the construction of the new Capital of the Province?

(b) If so, what is the amount asked for and how much do Government propose to advance in the current financial year and how much next year?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

EX-RULER OF REWA

***660. Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state the conditions under which Sir Gulab Singh, ex-ruler of Rewa State, has been released from detention?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir Gulab Singh has been released on the following conditions: (i) that he will not engage or assist in any undesirable activity or take any interest in any activity against the present Vindhya Pradesh Union; and (ii) that he will reside outside the Vindhya Pradesh Union, the United Provinces, and the Jubbulpore District of the Central Provinces.

ACCREDITATION OF HINDI JOURNALISTS

***661. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accredited press representatives on behalf of—

(i) English papers. (ii) English and Hindi papers combined, and (iii) Hindi papers only; and

(b) whether Government are aware that Hindi journalists have made complaints to the authorities with regard to accreditation and other facilities to the Hindi journalists?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) (i) 23 representing 26 English papers, (ii) two representing three English and two Hindi papers, (iii) seven representing fifteen Hindi papers.

(b) There have been individual complaints about facilities and accreditation on different occasions. Consistent with the resources of the Press Information Bureau, every effort has been made to provide the facilities asked for. As regards accreditation, Government take the advice of the Central Press Advisory Committee which is constituted by the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference.

CENTRAL PRESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*662. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government grant accreditation to journalists on the approval of the Central Press Advisory Committee;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no representative of Hindi journalists in the Central Press Advisory Committee;

(c) the number and names of the members of the Central Press Advisory Committee and their method of selection; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of giving representation to Hindi journalists in the Central Press Advisory Committee?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Yes, on the advice of the Central Press Advisory Committee.

(b) No.

(c) Seven. A list of members of the Central Press Advisory Committee is placed on the Table of the House.

The Committee is constituted by the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Members of the Central Press Advisory Committee

- (1) Mr. Devadas Gandhi (*Hindustan Times* and *Hindustan*),
- (2) Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta (*Tej*),
- (3) Mr. G. V. Krupanidhi (*Indian News Chronicle*),
- (4) Mr. J. K. Cowley (*Statesman*, New Delhi),
- (5) Mr. K. Narindra (*Daily Pratap*),
- (6) Mr. P. D. Sharma (U. P. A.) and
- (7) Mr. Hilal Ahmed Zubairi (*Ansari*, Delhi).

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

OPTION FOR DOMINIONS BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

17. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers and staff, Ministry-wise, who provisionally opted for the Dominion of India on the partition of India;

(b) the number of officers referred to above, who have applied for the reversal of their initial choice of option; and

(c) how many officers who applied for the reversal of the option have been admitted back in the services of Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

CONTINGENCY EXPENDITURE

18. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent under the head "Contingency" by each Ministry of the Government of India and Attached Offices during each of the last three years; and

(b) the main heads, or sub-heads, under which the greater part of the amount shown under "Contingency" was spent by each Ministry?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when it is complete.

EXPENDITURE ON NEWSPAPERS IN MINISTRIES

19. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by each Ministry of the Government of India and Attached offices in meeting the cost of daily and other newspapers subscribed to or purchased by them for use in their offices; and

(b) the names and number of copies of each such newspaper subscribed to by each Ministry?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House (*Information placed in the Library. See No. P-39/49.*)

**CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
DEBATES**

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Friday, 16th December, 1949

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

CARRYING OF MAIL (BY DIFFERENT MEANS OF TRANSPORT)

***663. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total number of letters and other articles of mail transmitted by air from 1st April, 1949, up to date and the total number of letters and other articles of mail sent by railway and other means of transport during the same period?

(b) What were the weights of the total mail sent by air and that sent by railway or other means of transport during the same period?

(c) What are the names of the airway companies which carried the airmail and the amount paid to each company for carrying the same?

(d) What was the amount paid for carriage of mail by railway for the same period?

(e) What was the number of letters and the weight of other articles of mail sent by post from India to foreign countries during the period?

(f) By what means of transport was this mail carried to foreign countries and what was the amount paid for carrying the same?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) to (f). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XVII, annexure No. 1.)

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Arising out of answer to (b), may I know what is the amount paid to the airway companies for the carrying of these mails, at least the total amount?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: The total amount paid to the air companies is Rs. 21,70,036/2/6.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the amount paid to the railways for carrying the mails, arising out of (d).

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Rs. 16,67,185/3/-

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the Honourable Minister aware that a postcard posted from the N.W.F.P. took 17 years, 3 months and 27 days to reach Calcutta?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I think it is a credit to the post-office to have preserved a letter for such a long time and then delivered it to the addressee.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Arising out of (f), may I know by what transport arrangement mails are carried to foreign countries, besides by air? What companies carry these mails?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Pardon?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know by what other means of transport mails are carried to foreign countries.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: By steamers, by surface routes, sea routes, and whichever ship can deliver the mail to the country, it is sent by that ship.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Are there contracts, and if there are, what is the rate paid?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: There are contracts, that is, the international contract rates are fixed, and we pay at those rates.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what are the rates for the P. & O. Company and the B.I.S.N. Company?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I will require notice.

A MODERN HOTEL IN NEW DELHI

*664. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether the plan for constructing a modern hotel in New Delhi has materialized?

(b) If so, what stage has it reached?

(c) What will be the approximate cost of the hotel?

(d) Will it be built by private concerns or by Government?

(e) When is the hotel likely to be completed and has the site been selected for the purpose?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) to (e). A site measuring about eight acres has been reserved at Jorbagh, Lodi Road, for the construction of the hotel. Offers for the lease of the site were invited from private firms, possessing experience of hotel construction and management, and negotiations for the lease were undertaken with the firm, from whom the highest offer was received. This firm has not, however, so far intimated its final acceptance of all the terms and conditions of the lease.

As the hotel will be built by a private concern, it is not possible for Government to say what will be its approximate cost. Government's intention is that the hotel should be constructed within a period of 18 months from the date on which the lease agreement is finally concluded.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister has said that the final acceptance of the terms has not yet been intimated. May I know what are the reasons for the delay?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The reason is this. The highest bidder was the Associated Hotels Limited; but there was some agreement between them and the original contractor who built the present Imperial Hotel. To get out

of this, another company has been floated called the East India Hotel Limited, and now negotiations are with this new company, and they have reached a stage from which it is reasonable to conclude that the negotiations will be completed very soon.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether it is a fact that the proprietors of the Taj Mahal Hotel also submitted a scheme on the condition that prohibition will not be allowed to be implemented?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I will answer it in two parts. The proprietor of the Taj did submit a proposal. As regards the condition that prohibition should not be enforced in that hotel, I should not be understood to say that that condition was laid down by the Taj Proprietor alone. There were many others who wanted an assurance of that kind. But the only assurance that could be given was that the hotel management must respect the law of the land, and the only exception that was possible to be made was in the case of foreigners.

Shri B. N. Munavalli: Since how long have these negotiations been going on?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: For nearly a year.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What are the financial commitments of the Government, if any, in this proposal?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Not even to the extent of a copper coin.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know why the Government feels the need for having a hotel? For what purpose do they want it?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Honourable Member is not aware of the acuteness of the shortage of accommodation in the city. There are nearly forty embassies, and we have not been able to give them sufficient accommodation as we are under an obligation to do. In order to meet that demand, and also the demand of the general public, it was felt desirable that a hotel of this kind should be provided.

Shri S. Nagappa: In this hotel which is going to be constructed, may I know how many people will be accommodated?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Four hundred.

Shri S. Nagappa: How many storeys will the building have?

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

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know what priority the construction of this building will have? May I know whether any preference will be given to it over the construction of houses for refugees?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Priority will be given if the negotiations are finalised, for the simple reason that a substantial part of the accommodation will be requisitioned by Government.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: I understand that this hotel will be in European style. May I know whether arrangements will be made for the Indian style also, and particularly for the vegetarian style?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: This will be borne in mind when finalising the conditions.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the price of the land that will be charged to the person who is going to build the hotel?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As I have already stated in the reply, we have accepted the highest offer, and if the Honourable Member wants further information, I require notice.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: While drinking facilities are provided for our country-men in other hotels and restaurants of Delhi, why should there be this invidious distinction in the case of the proposed new hotel?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think the Honourable Member has not fully understood me. My reply was that an assurance was demanded in advance, and it was stated to them plainly that such an assurance could not be given and that the management would have to honour the law of the land then prevailing.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the amount quoted by the highest bidder?

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

Shri R. K. Sidhva: But Sir, the Honourable Minister said that he has received the highest offer and I want to know how much it is.

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

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has asked for the approximate cost. Here I would appeal to the Honourable Ministers to have full and complete knowledge of all relevant matters. I have been noticing a volley of questions here and a kind of cross-examination also. I would like Honourable Ministers to have complete information. They must anticipate all supplementaries. As a matter of fact, here is a question about the approximate cost of the hotel, that is to say, the cost of the land. I request the Honourable Ministers to take Members into confidence and give them as much information as possible, consistent with public safety and confidence.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I did not understand the question that way, perhaps I may be wrong, I thought the Honourable Member wanted details of all the offers. I might have misunderstood the question. The offer accepted was Rs. 70,000 per acre.

श्री गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट : क्या इस होटल की योजना वर्क्स, माइन्ज एंड पावर की स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के सामने रखी गई थी ?

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt: Was the plan to construct this hotel placed before the standing Committee attached to the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power?

आनरेबिल श्री एन० वी० गैडगिल : जब वह फाइनलाइज (finalize) हो जायगी तब रखी जायगी।

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: This will be done when it is finalised.

श्री गोकुलभाई दौलतराम भट्ट : क्या यह बात ठीक नहीं होती कि यह योजना स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के सामने पहले रख दी जाती और फिर फाइनलाइज (finalize) की जाती ?

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt: Would it not have been proper if this scheme had been first placed before the Standing Committee and then finalized?

आनरेबिल श्री एन० वी० गैडगिल : इसमें अगर गवर्नमेंट का कोई फाईनेन्शल कमिटमेंट (financial commitment) होता तो ऐसा किया जाता।

क्योंकि इसमें कोई फाइननेन्शल कमिटमेंट नहीं है इसलिए देखा जायगा और सोचा जायगा कि ऐसा करना ठीक है या नहीं।

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: This would have been done if this had involved any financial commitment by the Government. Because this does not involve any financial commitment, it will be seen and thought over whether or not this course is proper.

श्री गोकुलभाई दौलतराम भट्ट : इसमें वर्क्स, माइन्ज और पावर विभाग के काम करने वालों का समय लगता है, इस रीति से इसका फाईनेन्स पर कुछ असर तो होता ही है।

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt: This takes the time of the staff in the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power, and thus it does have some effect on finances.

आनरेबिल श्री एन० वी० गैडगिल : कोई असर नहीं होता। जिस तरह से हम और जगह बेच रहे हैं। उसी तरह इस जगह भी बेच रहे हैं।

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: This does not have any effect. Just as we are doing in other cases, we are doing in this case also.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know when these offers were received and finalised?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The negotiations are at such a stage that I hope they will be finalised in two months' time.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: When were these offers received? Were tenders invited or was it done by private negotiations?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Tenders as such were not invited. But as I stated in my reply, those persons who were interested and had considerable experience in running hotels and most of the leading hotel companies in the country were communicated with and after that the highest offer has been accepted.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact, that Government has offered land at the rate of Rs. 1,25,000 per acre to newspapers for their presses whereas they are selling it at the rate of Rs. 70,000 per acre for a hotel?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The price depends upon many factors, including the situation of the land.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that the site for the hotel is far better from the business point of view than the sites allotted to newspapers?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri B. N. Munavalli: How many offers were received?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Half a dozen.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Are Government aware that some of the best hotels in England are being nationalised? If so, do Government propose to nationalise at least some of the hotels in India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: There is no intention at present to nationalise the hotel industry.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : तो जब कि सिर्फ ६ आदमियों ने इसके लिये दरखास्त दी थी और जब माननीय मंत्री जी यह कहते हैं कि करीब करीब हिन्दुस्तान भर के सब लोगों को इस बात के लिये लिखा गया था.....

Seth Govind Das: So, when only six persons had applied for this and when the Honourable Minister says that almost all the people in India were addressed in this matter.....

आनरेबिल श्री एन. वी. गडगिल जो इसमें रह सकते हैं।

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Those who can live in it.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : तो क्या यह माना जाय कि हिन्दुस्तान में जो अच्छा होटल चलाने वाले हैं उनकी संख्या सिर्फ ६ ही है।

Seth Govind Das: Then, should it be taken for granted that the number of persons who are experienced in hotel business in India is six only?

आनरेबिल श्री एन. वी. गडगिल : ६ ने टेंडर दिये हैं। यह मैंने नहीं

कहा कि उनकी तादाद ६ है।

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Six have submitted tenders. I did not say that their number is six.

सेठ गोविन्दास , 'कितने लोगों को लिखा गया था और कितने लोगों ने टेंडर दिए थे

Seth Govind Das: How many people were addressed and how many have sent tenders?

आनरेबिल श्री एन. वी. गडगिल : यह तो तफसील की बात है। इसके लिए मैं नोटिस चाहता हूँ।

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: This is going into the details. I require notice for this.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Was any tender received from Jubbulpore?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: If one comes I am prepared to reconsider.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह मालूम है कि जबलपुर में बहुत कम होटल हैं इसलिए वहाँ से टेंडर आने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that there are very few hotels in Jubbulpore? The question of receiving tenders from that place, therefore, does not arise.

Mr. Tajamul Hussain: Have Government come to any decision as to what should be the maximum and minimum daily charge, considering the fact that our country is very poor?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As regards that the Hotel Control Act of Bombay has been made applicable to Delhi and New Delhi. Under the provisions of that Act the Tariff is prepared by the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi and is enforced.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What was the offer received from the proprietor of the Taj Hotel?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is a matter of detail.

QUALITY OF FOOD GRAINS

*665. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India issued instructions to all provincial governments to see that there is no mixture of inferior quality grains or any other stuff in foodgrains?

(b) If so, have all Provincial Governments strictly followed the instructions?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, so far as the Government of India are aware.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Government of India has received complaints from several consumers as regards the very defective quality and the mixture of grains that are supplied by the ration shops?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: A number of complaints have been received. Apart from the question of mixture of grains, there are other complaints as well about the quality of grains. As Honourable members are aware Government have appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, which has toured five provinces and gone into details as to how to improve as also preserve the quality of the grains. Steps are being taken to see that conditions improve. I may tell the House frankly that personally I am not satisfied that proper quality grains are being distributed, apart from the question of mixture of grains. We are taking steps to improve matters.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have Government issued instructions to the police or other vigilance staff to organise surprise raids on grain shops so as to catch offenders against the law?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have left the details of the steps to be taken to the provincial governments. We have asked them to take all possible steps in the matter.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What machinery do Government maintain to inspect and check whether any inferior grains are being mixed with other grains?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is the ordinary food administration which, I believe, is handling this question in all the provinces.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Do the Central Government maintain any machinery?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It does not maintain any special machinery in the provinces for this purpose.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: When will the report of the committee be available?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I said they have already toured five provinces. I think the report should be available at the end of two months. As soon as this session ends they will be able to complete the other provinces.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What steps are proposed to be taken in the Centrally Administered Areas to catch offenders?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: If finance permits I am prepared to have a special staff to deal with the matter but so far finances have been a difficulty in having additional staff for the purpose of maintaining the quality in the provinces.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: How many cases have been detected by the provincial governments?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There must be hundreds of cases all over the country.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Any action taken on them?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will be able to get the information if any specific province is indicated, when I will make enquiries and give the information.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Have the Government any idea as to in how many cases there have been convictions?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to say without notice.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Have Government information that fine sand is collected from rivers and mixed with the grains?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have no information but if any specific cases are brought to my notice I will go into the matter.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister said that if finances are available a special staff will be appointed in the Centrally administered area. May I know whether he had made any effort to approach the Finance Minister, as it is a subject which relates to the health of the people, and whether the Finance Minister refused?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable Minister need not answer that question. The Honourable Minister is expected to have taken all reasonable steps. Questions as to whether the Honourable Minister approached the proper authority for finances etc. have no meaning. He said "if finances permit". From that the inference is that he has done his best to get the finance from the quarter responsible and that the finances are not available.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is no question of referring to the Finance Minister.....

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, this is not the first time that an Honourable Minister has said that he is in favour of various suggestions that are being made in the House but that unfortunately finance was not available, as if the Finance Minister is guilty of all these things. In that case it makes no difference between the Minister concerned and the private members in this House. May I suggest that if any answers are given the Honourable Minister concerned may be expected to state what he proposes to do or what he is doing consistently with the funds that are made available to him.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I agree. But to ask further, after the answer of the Honourable Minister that finances are not available, as to whether he made an approach to the Finance Minister or the Standing Finance Committee does not seem to be proper.

SCIENTIFIC DEVICE FOR PREVENTION OF DERAILMENT

*666. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any scientific device has been invented by any indivi-

(b) If so, what is the device so invented and have Government been approached to examine the said device?

(c) If so, have the Railway Board taken advantage of this device and made experiment with it and if so, with what result?

(d) What is the decision of Government regarding this?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) A device was brought to the notice of the Government by Shri J. M. Sharma of Lucknow in March 1949.

(b) This device consisted of a covering for the rail joint to prevent unauthorised persons from tampering with fishplates and fish bolts. The Government were approached by Shri Sharma to examine the device.

(c) The arrangement was examined by Railway Technical Authorities at the Government Technical Institute, Lucknow, but was considered impracticable for adoption.

(d) The Railway Board reached the decision that this device could not be economically or usefully adopted on Railways.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Does the device which the Honourable Minister mentioned relate to a scientist in Calcutta?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: No. It is a person from Lucknow.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that a scientist from Calcutta approached the Railway Board in this matter and that the Railway Board are making experiments with his device between Howrah and certain stations?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think the other device relates to ticketless travelling.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: This question relates to the derailment of trains.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I am also asking in respect of the derailment of trains.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: This refers to a device for ensuring safety and that relates to a different matter. It does not relate to this question.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has there been any device invented by an engineer in Bombay and has it been examined?

An Honourable Member: For what?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: For the prevention of derailments.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I have a vague recollection that somebody from Bombay did suggest something and that was examined and found to be impracticable.

Shri H. V. Kamath: From the reports received, have cases of derailment shown a tendency to increase during the last three years?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am not aware of any increase in derailments during the last three years, one year being compared with another.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the result of the experiment on this ticketless travelling?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Honourable Member is straying away to another

UNDERGROUND RAILWAY

*667. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India contemplate laying an underground railway in Calcutta?

(b) If so, has the scheme been surveyed and what is the total estimated cost of such a railway?

(c) Have the Government of India approved of such a scheme?

(d) Has there been any such scheme for the city of Bombay? If so, what were the results?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) No; but the Government of West Bengal are examining such a scheme.

(b) A scheme for an underground railway was recently prepared by a French concern and is at present under the scrutiny of the West Bengal Government. The estimated cost of this scheme is not known.

(c) As the Government of India has not yet had an opportunity of examining this scheme, the question of approval does not arise.

(d) Various schemes for underground Railways in Bombay have been considered since 1922-23, but no proposal has yet been approved on account of the high cost. The latest proposal for an underground Railway between Bombay Central and Colaba was made in 1947, in connection with the preparation of a Master Plan for the Greater Bombay region, but was not pursued as the Government of Bombay wanted to explore other ways for dealing with the increased traffic.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Who is to bear the preliminary expenses of the contemplated West Bengal scheme?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: For the time being the West Bengal Government is bearing it.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: But Railways being a Central subject, even before giving it to the French engineering company did they consult the Central Government?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The question whether it is a Central liability or a provincial liability is still a matter for consideration. It cannot be said very definitely that the provision of underground sub-way railway of this description is necessarily a Central liability.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: But is it not a fact that in the Constitution it is definitely stated that the railways and trams are subjects of the Union?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Which Constitution?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The New Constitution.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The New Constitution has not come into force yet.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Certain portions of it have already come into force.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is a matter of opinion.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has at any time a scheme of underground railway for Delhi been considered by Government?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Not that I know of.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will this matter regarding the provincial liability *vis-a-vis* the Centre be re-examined on January 26th when the Constitution comes into force?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: It will be examined when the West Bengal Government do address us after they have examined the scheme.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: May I know why the Bengal Government alone is considering this scheme of underground railway—is it for those who have gone underground?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I believe the West Bengal Government is perhaps more enterprising than other Provincial Governments.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will this be a provincial or a Central matter?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has answered it. It is a question of opinion.

TRIBUNAL FOR FIXING RAILWAY RATES

†*668. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a tribunal for the purpose of fixing up Railway rates?

(b) If so, what is the composition of the tribunal and is the tribunal empowered to give final decision?

(c) Will the tribunal deal with the scale of railway passenger fares along with freight rates?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Government have set up a statutory Railway Rates Tribunal for considering public complaints against Railways relating to rates and charges for the carriage of merchandise by goods train and complaints of undue or unreasonable preference in connection therewith.

(b) The Tribunal consists of a President and two other members appointed by the Central Government and is empowered to give final decisions in matters within its jurisdiction.

(c) The Tribunal will not deal with the scale of railway fares except on a reference made to it by the Central Government.

ENGINEERS SENT TO U.S.A. FOR TRAINING

*669. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) how many engineers have been sent to U.S.A. for intensive and specialised training in modern methods of High Way Engineering;

(b) from what provinces and states they have been selected; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred by Government on them?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Fifty-two engineers.

(b) These engineers came from all Provinces except Assam, from the States of Mysore and Hyderabad, and the Unions of Travancore-Cochin, Saurashtra, and the Patiala and East Punjab States Union.

(c) The total expenditure incurred amounts to rupees nine lakhs and sixty thousand in round figures. This includes an expenditure of rupees three lakhs and forty-seven thousand incurred by the Government of India.

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know what is "Highway Engineering"?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Highway engineering is engineering in relation to highways.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the cost of training of the engineers in America will be borne by the Provincial Governments or by the Centre?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: So far as these deputations are concerned, part of the cost was borne by the Centre and part by the Provinces which sent them.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know what will be the duration of the training and whether any diploma will be given at the end of the training?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: This is not a regular training as such. Periodically we send them, and the duration of training in U.S.A. has been four and a half months for each of these deputations.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether those that were selected and sent to U.S.A. were in government service prior to their being sent to foreign countries or whether they were selected from the colleges?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: They were all in the Engineering Services of the various Provinces or States and the Centre.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: May I know who selected those engineers and by what method they were selected.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The selection of candidates was done in the case of each of the three deputations after nominations were made by the Provincial and State Governments who had been asked for nominations months in advance. The scheme is well-known to all Provincial Chief Engineers.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: May I know whether all these engineers who have been given training abroad will be utilised for training further students in their respective engineering subjects?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: They were trained to look after Highways administration in each Province in a better manner.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Apart from that, are they being utilised to train further students in highway engineering?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: This is not a case of students' training. Presumably these engineers are instructing their subordinates in the better methods of engineering learnt by them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They are not professors.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have any of the batches returned to India, and, if so, have they submitted any Report to the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: All these have returned—one in 1946, the second in 1947 and the third in 1949. The full course of the training offered is published in the bulletin of the Road Congress.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have they submitted any report to the Government of India at any time?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The whole course of training is pre-arranged and they undergo training and come back.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No special report is called for evidently.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has this training been found to be of real utility and worth the money that is spent on it?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: That is the opinion of our experts.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know the number of trainees from each Province?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the Honourable Member want to exhaust all the Provinces or confine himself to one Province only? It will take a long time to read figures for Province after Province.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What is the number for Rajasthan?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I don't find Rajasthan in my list.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is this scheme being continued and if so how many have been sent this year?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: It will be decided as and when occasion arises. For this year the scheme is completed and we don't know whether we shall continue it next year or not.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether the people are selected by the Central Government or by the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I have already answered that question.

CATTLE UTILISATION

670. Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cattle breeding centres opened in India in 1948-49;
- (b) facilities provided for the salvage of dry herd of cattle in big cities; and
- (c) results of artificial insemination for improving the breed of cattle?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). A statement on the basis of information supplied by the Provincial and State Governments is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XVII, annexure No. 2.)

सेठ गोविंद दास : क्या यह बात सत्य है कि कुछ जगह जहाँ पर कि यह ब्रीडिंग फार्म्स (breeding farms) शुरू किये गये थे वहाँ अब यह बन्द किए जा रहे हैं।

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that these breeding farms which were opened at certain places are now being closed?

आनरेबिल श्री जयरामदास दौलतराम : बन्द नहीं किये जा रहे हैं, लेकिन प्राविशियल गवर्नमेंट्स को दिये जा रहे हैं।

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: These are not being closed, but have been handed over to the Provincial Governments.

सेठ गोविंद दास : तो क्या गवर्नमेंट को प्राविशियल गवर्नमेंट्स से इस बात का बचन मिला गया है कि इन ब्रीडिंग फार्म्स को बंद नही करेगी बल्कि यह फार्म्स चलाये जायेंगे।

Seth Govind Das: Have Government secured a promise from the Provincial Governments to the effect that they will not close these breeding farms but will run them?

आनरेबल श्री जयरामदास दौलतराम : जहां दिये नये हैं वहां यही आशा है कि चलाये जायेंगे।

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Wherever these have been made over, it is hoped these will be run.

सेठ गोविंददास : मैं यह और जानना चाहता हूं कि 'ग्रो मोर फूड' (Grow More Food) की स्कीम में इस विषय को भी शामिल क्यों नहीं किया गया क्योंकि इसका उससे बहुत अधिक सम्बन्ध है।

Seth Govind Das: I want to know further why this subject has not been included in the 'Grow More Food' scheme since this is very largely connected with it?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Does it arise, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have not followed the question. I only request that so long as I am in the Chair Honourable Members will put their questions in English.

Seth Govind Das: I wanted to ask the Honourable Minister that when this question has such a great connection with the Grow More Food campaign, why these breeding farms are not included in their schemes.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It cannot form a direct part of the Grow More Food campaign. If it is so interpreted then everything will form a part of the Grow More Food campaign including the growing of fodder for cattle needed for field work; apart from food, the production of food for cattle also then becomes part of that Grow More Food campaign.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: In view of the cyclone in Andhra Desha will the Government consider the necessity of opening a cattle breeding centre in Andhra Desha?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: If the Provincial Government bears a portion of the cost the matter could be considered.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Do our *chastras* sanction artificial insemination?

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know if there is a cattle breeding farm in Jubbulpore?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, we have taken the land and have a small herd, but the question of further development is under consideration on account of financial difficulty.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether they are practising artificial insemination in Jubbulpore farm?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are making it a little too provincial.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Are the *gowsalas* included in the breeding centres?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I don't think that ordinarily *gowsalas* can be regarded as breeding centres.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: On a point of order, will the Chair be in order in compelling an Honourable Member of this House to break a solemn oath which he has taken to speak only in Hindi?

Seth Govind Das: I have not taken any solemn oath.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no point of order. At my request any Honourable Member can break his vow.

TELEGRAMS IN HINDI

*671. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) if steps are being taken to provide facilities for sending telegrams in Hindi; and

(b) if so, to what areas telegrams in Hindi can be sent, or are proposed to be sent in the year 1949-50?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) and (b). Facilities for sending telegrams in Hindi have already been provided at Agra, Allahabad, Benares, Gaya, Jubbulpore, Kanpur, Nagpur and Patna. The question of extending the facility to other stations is under examination.

Seth Govind Das: May I know whether the number of telegrams which are now being sent from places where these facilities have been offered, is increasing or is just as it was before?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: It is increasing in the U.P., but Jubbulpore, Nagpur and Gaya are showing a decrease.

Seth Govind Das: May I know the reason for this, Sir?

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: May I know whether it is a fact that the President of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Mr. Govind Das himself, has been sending all his telegrams in English and none in Hindi from Jubbulpore?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I would like to know who is the President of the Sahitya Sammelan.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is too personal.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: May I know in what script these Hindi telegrams are accepted? In Roman script or Devnagri?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: In Hindi script.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether facilities are being extended to Delhi also for booking telegrams in Hindi?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: The next stations to be selected are Delhi and Jaipur.

Sardar Hukam Singh: After the experiment that has been tried so far, may I know whether the impression of the Government is that it has been proceeding satisfactorily or not?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: It is not an experiment, it is the introduction of the national language.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that a telegram in Hindi, according to the number of words involved, costs more than a telegram in English?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That is for the experts in the language to devise. They can devise any words and it will be transmitted in that form.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: What has been the experience of the Department on this question: do they find that a telegram in Hindi having the same purport costs more than a telegram in English because more words are used in Hindi?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: In some cases less words can be used, in other cases more words may have to be used.

Seth Govind Das: Is it under contemplation of Government to increase the maximum number of words for the same amount charged? That is, suppose a certain number of words are accepted for one rupee in English, then a larger number would be accepted in Hindi?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I will consider this suggestion when the time comes.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know what standard or criterion does the Government adopt in extending this facility to different towns?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: We started it in an area where the Hindi language is more prevalent than in other parts, therefore most of the stations were selected in U.P., C.P. and Bihar. Now I find that many people want to send telegrams from Delhi to these places and therefore Delhi and Jaipur are being selected for the next extension.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether Delhi is one of those towns where standard Hindi is not one of the most prevalent languages?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That is true, but many people from places where standard Hindi is prevalent visit Delhi and I want to extend to them the facility of communicating with their families or friends or businessmen in the language that is prevalent there.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Has the Department developed a telegraph code with Hindi alphabets or is it still using the foreign Morse Code?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: They have developed their own code.

श्री महावीर त्यागी में यह दृष्ट्याप्त करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दी में जो 'ने', 'को' वगैरह के लफ्ज आते हैं, और दूसरे लफ्जों के साथ मिलते हैं, अलग लिखे जाते हैं या अंग्रेजी में जिस तरह अपासट्राफी एम् (apostrophe "s") को मिला कर एक ही लफ्ज गिना जाता है इस तरह की गुंजायश हिन्दी में भी है।

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know whether the words 'ने' and 'को' etc. occurring in Hindi which are joined with other words, are written separately, or combined with other words, and counted as one word, just as is done in English with an apostrophe "s"?

• آنریبل مسٹر رفیع احمد قدوائی: یہ تو لکھنے والے کی قابلیت پر ہے۔

اگر وہ "کو" "نے" لکھ سکے تو آپ اس سے کیا کریں گے؟

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: It all depends upon the ability of the writer. If he can drop "و" and "ے" he can do so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think the Honourable Members who have spoken are putting questions to persuade the Honourable Minister to withdraw the concession. I feel the arguments and supplementary questions are directed towards the non-use of the national language.

श्री गोकुलभाई दौलतराम भट्ट: यह जो हिन्दी में तार भेजने की सुविधा है उसमें क्या शहरों के अलावा कस्बों को भी जल्दी दाखिल नहीं किया जायगा?

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt: May I know whether the facilities for sending telegrams in Hindi will also soon be extended to villages also?

آنریبل مسٹر رفیع احمد قدوائی: ہم ٹریننگ دے رہے ہیں اور جہوں جہوں لوگوں کو ٹریننگ ملتی جائے گی دوسرے اسٹیشنوں میں یہ پھیلاتے جائیں گے۔

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: We are giving training; and as soon as more people are trained, it will be extended to other stations.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Why not the Minister at least reply in English?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I answer in the language in which the question has been put.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER

*672. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the amount of Hydro-electric power generated during the year 1948-49, and what further increase in output is expected during the year 1949-50?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The total Hydro-electric power generated in the country in 1948-49 is reported to have been 2,391 million K.W. hours. During the year 1949-50, the Provincial and State Governments concerned expect to add another 138 million K.W. hours to it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that the Wain ganga scheme in C.P. has been or is going to be abandoned?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: By no stretch of imagination can this arise out of this question.

Shri V. I. Munishwamy Pillay: May I know whether there is any proposal to have a further dam in the Nilgiris for storing water and generating electricity?

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

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण साहू: मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जितनी इलेक्ट्रिसिटी आप पैदा करते हैं, उतनी इलेक्ट्रिसिटी सद रूप जायेगी काम में, क्या ऐसा कुछ प्रबन्ध सरकार न साचा है।

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: May I know whether Government have thought of any such arrangements by which the entire energy that is produced is consumed?

आनरेबल श्री एन० वी० गडगिल : जो पैदा होती है, उससे ज्यादा डिमांड (demand) है।

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The demand exceeds the production.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are Government taking to increase the total power within the next one or two years?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Assuming that this is allowed by the Chair, my reply is that the detailed information has already been published. What is proposed to generate by way of hydro-electric power and by way of thermal process—those plans are already there. In the course of the next five years, it is proposed that there will be an increase of 80 per cent. over the power available today.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether any proposals for generating hydro-electric power from the Chambal river is under contemplation of Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is one of the projects approved by the Madhya Bharat Government.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether, out of the power generated, any is supplied for agricultural purposes? If so, in which province and at what rate per unit?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is very difficult to give a detailed reply, but in the presidency of Madras there are about 5,000 pumps working on hydro-electric power in rural districts mainly for agricultural purposes.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know if any concession is given to these agriculturists who make use of electric power?

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

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is well known that it is 9 pies per unit for agricultural purposes and 3½ annas for lighting and industrial purposes.

Seth Govind Das: Will this increased production of 80 per cent. be from the existing schemes or will there be any new schemes?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Both.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण साहू : क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि जितनी इलेक्ट्रिसिटी पैदा होने वाली है, वह सब उड़ीसा में खत्म नहीं हो सकती है, इस लिये क्या उड़ीसा सरकार इलेक्ट्रिसिटी हमारे को दे सकती है, जैसे मद्रास गवर्नमेंट को ?

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Are Government aware that the entire electric energy that is likely to be produced cannot be utilized in Orissa and can the Government of Orissa supply it to others such as the Madras Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: When we plan for increased production, at the same time the factor of utilisation is taken into consideration and then only the plan is finalised.

MINERAL WEALTH AND NEW MINES

***673. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey is proposed to be made of the mineral wealth of the integrated Indian States; and

(b) what new mines of great potential value have been discovered during the year 1948-49?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) A considerable amount of exploratory work has been done in the past on the mineral deposits of the integrated Indian States by the Geological Survey of India, and a number of mineral investigations in those States are scheduled to be carried out during the current field season from the beginning of November till the end of April.

The account of the work already done is given in a number of publications of the Geological Survey of India.

(b) A statement (No. I) is laid on the Table showing the particulars of the mineral investigations of potential value which were carried out in the States during 1948-49 (See Appendix XVII, annexure No. 3.)

These investigations either revealed new deposits or produced data which has considerably enlarged the previously known reserves.

I also place on the Table another statement (No. II) showing the particulars of investigations intended to be carried out in the States during the current field season. (See Appendix XVII, annexure No. 3.)

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that C.P. is considered to be very rich in regard to mineral resources and particularly Bastar State which has recently been merged in it, may I know if there is any scheme to exploit the Bastar State in particular in the near future?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Apart from the province of C.P. there are other areas in the Union which are equally rich in minerals; there is no special scheme for Bastar State.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: May I know what is the result of the geological survey in Assam and whether gold has been found?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: In 1948-49 the report shows that no gold has been found, but the prospects of oil are encouraging. For the season 1949-50, it is proposed to direct the survey towards clay deposits in Tripura State.

Shri B. L. Sondhi: The question relates to Indian States; where does Assam come in?

आनरेबल श्री एन० वी० गडगिल : उन्होंने पूछा था, सवाल का जवाब देना था, अगर नहीं देंगे तो नाराजगी होगी।

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: A question was asked and had to be replied. No reply would have meant discourtesy.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: May I know whether any mineral wealth has been discovered in Rajasthan?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The position in 1948-49 in Rajasthan is:

Examination of beryl deposits in Ajmer-Merwara.
Investigation of limestone occurrences in Chittoorgarh, Mewar State.
Prospecting of gypsum in Jaisalmer and Jodhpur States.
Investigation of limestone deposit in Kotah.
Investigation of glass-sand in Bundi State.
Examination of the copper areas in Alwar and Jaipur States.
Examination of the lead-zinc mine at Zawar, Udaipur State.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Are these publications available to members of the public and Members of the House?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes, Sir.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it a fact that high quality sand is also available in Rajasthan?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes.

ELECTRIC COMPANIES

***674. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any electric companies, head offices of which were transferred to India from places now in Pakistan, and which are now practically defunct; and

(b) whether security deposits have been returned to consumers of energy and what steps have been taken to safeguard depositors' interests?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The information is being collected from the Provincial and State Registrars of Joint Stock Companies and the individual Companies concerned and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) Government have received no complaints regarding return of security deposits of consumers with electric companies referred to in (a). The second part of the question therefore, does not arise.

BOOKSTALL HOLDERS IN RAILWAY STATIONS

***675. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the method usually followed in appointing bookstall-holders in big stations like Delhi Main Junction, Howrah, etc.?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The contract for bookstalls is allotted on the licensing system as opposed to the tender system, the selection of the contractor being made on grounds of reliability, financial soundness, past experience and satisfactory service.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, whether the contracts are given on a yearly basis or for a number of years at a time?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The contracts are usually for a particular number of years, subject to termination at some months' notice on either side.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, what is the designation of the officer who is in charge of the selection of contractors and whether he has got the right to reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I believe officers who are on the commercial side of the railway administration are entrusted with this work.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Why are not these contracts given on a tender basis?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The particular subject is not considered fit to be done on a tender basis, as speculative tenders may be offered by people without any experience of this trade.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that last year one of the book seller companies was appointed for the Delhi Main Junction on a commission of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. to Government, whereas the application of other companies which were prepared to pay more were rejected?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: No, Sir. The royalty which has been prescribed by the Central Advisory Council for all such contracts is $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The old company was found unsuitable by a Committee of the Central Advisory Council and on the recommendation of the entire Central Advisory Council a notice of termination was given to the old company.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the amount of royalty recovered from all the bookstall holders during the last year?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I require notice of that question. The maximum charged is $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Was the recommendation of the Committee of the Central Advisory Council carried out *in toto* or only in part?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The recommendation of the Committee was carried out *in toto*, but unfortunately the old bookstall keeper went to court and got an injunction and the litigation is still going on. Until the litigation is completed the Railways will not be able to implement the recommendation of the Committee *in toto*.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: May I know whether displaced and uprooted persons will be shown any preference in the matter of contract for bookstalls?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, in the case of bookstalls the needs of the passengers and the public have to be given predominant consideration.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, if within the terms of the contract a dispute arises, there is an arbitration clause?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I would require notice of that question. But even if there is an arbitration clause, there is nothing to prevent a man from going to a court.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Is it not a fact, Sir, that one particular company has been given the contract for bookstalls at all the bigger stations of India?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I do not think so. There are other big companies, for instance, like the Higginbothams in the South. I do not think there is a single company which has got a monopoly at all the stations.

TRACTORS AND BULL-DOZERS

***676. Shri Dashedbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tractors and bull-dozers which the Government of India, Provinces and States possess and the amount spent on the purchase of the same;

(b) the total acreage of land ploughed by these tractors during the last one

year and acreage which they should have ploughed on the basis of their standard average capacity to plough;

(c) the cost of working, maintenance and repair incurred on them during the period;

(d) the number of tractors which are at present out of order and the total working hours for which these tractors remained out of order during the last one year;

(e) whether it is a fact that the tractors are not given to private individuals who have been allotted large plots of land in the United Provinces unless they deposit the ploughing charges at the rate of Rs. 55/- per acre in advance nor are facilities given to private individuals to buy tractors of their own on instalment basis;

(f) whether it is a fact that private individuals who do not pay something by way of illegal gratification to the subordinate officials connected with the Tractor Organisation particularly in the United Provinces find it hard to get tractors to plough their land;

(g) if so, what action Government have taken to counteract this evil; and

(h) whether it is a fact that the Tarai area in the United Provinces which is being brought under cultivation is infested with wild animals, e.g., tigers, bears etc., and the Government does not give any facilities to such people who are doing the pioneering work in reclaiming this area and they find it very difficult even to get a renewal of their fire-arms licences etc.?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (d). A statement giving the available information is laid on the Table. (See Appendix XVII, annexure No. 4.)

(e) Yes. The U.P. Government are investigating the possibility of realising the dues in three instalments in cash or kind from three major crops instead of taking an advance. *Takavi* recoverable in easy instalments is invariably given to private individuals for the purchase of tractors and implements provided they hypothecate adequate security.

(f) and (g). The Central Tractor Organisation is not concerned with any complaint of illegal gratification as the organisation undertakes work only on such lands as are made available for the purpose by the Provincial or State Government concerned. Complaints of this nature have been received by the Governments of Bombay, Madras and U.P. only. A note indicating the action taken by the Provincial Governments concerned is placed on the Table. (See Appendix XVII, annexure No. 5.)

(h) Yes. U.P. Government have a planned scheme of reclamation which envisages the erection of wire fencing to keep off wild animals and the appointment of *shikaris* to shoot wild animals at sight within the colonisation areas. The menace is, however, being gradually overcome and no loss to life has so far been reported. The U.P. scheme also contemplates a more liberal distribution of fire-arms for protection of crops. The settlers are only now being admitted to land in the Tarai and licenses for fire-arms will be issued by the U.P. Government wherever considered necessary.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I request the Honourable Minister to read out the replies to part (a) and (b) of my question—or at least give the total amount spent on the purchase of the tractors and the total number of tractors and bull-dozers purchased? My supplementaries can only be based on that information. It is not going to take a long time.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is a very long statement containing about 25 items. But I shall give him the number of tractors possessed by the different provinces.

United Provinces 450, East Punjab 137, Central Tractor Organisation 252, Mysore 148, Bihar 30, Assam 31, Bombay 163, Hyderabad 30, C.P. 30, Orissa 12, Madras 157, Saurashtra 63, Vindhya Pradesh 6, West Bengal 14 and Travancore 5.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What I wanted to know was the total number of tractors in India and the States and the amount spent on their purchase.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid the total has not been struck.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: But the question is about the total number of tractors purchased and the acreage ploughed by them. I cannot understand why an answer to that cannot be given.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Minister has not withheld any information from the House. Instead of giving the total number, he has given the information province-wise. The Honourable Minister may perhaps be able to give the amount spent on the purchase of the tractors.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There also I can give the amount spent on tractors with the various provinces and the Centre. But, as I said, the total has not been made up, because the question was not in that form. I have no objection to make up the total and supply it to the Honourable Member.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government maintaining any engineering section where they are making experiments with regard to the proper working of these various tractors and other machinery?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We are maintaining an engineering section in the Agricultural Research Institute where new types of tractors which come are first tried and the provinces are given the results of these trials.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has it been strengthened during the last one or two years?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not think there has been any particular strengthening of it. Perhaps a junior officer may have been appointed recently.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, with regard to part (b) of my question, as to what is the average output which a tractor should give and what is the average output we have obtained. That is a very simple question.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have given all the details about the various provinces and States in the statement, where the overall percentage has been worked out.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is pretty clear—the total acreage of land ploughed. What is the good of giving details instead of giving the total number of tractors as also the area ploughed. I would ask the Honourable Minister to give that answer.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: All the details are in this statement.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: The question is not in that form. I just want the total acreage of land ploughed by these tractors—it would be just one figure.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have no objection to give that figure, but it is not available with me at present. I shall have that figure supplied to the Honourable Member and the whole House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question hour is unfortunately over.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: This question, Sir . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But, how can the question hour be extended? We will proceed with Private Members' legislative business.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I hope, Sir, the Honourable Minister will accept a short notice question on this subject so that supplementaries can be put, as the subject has not been discussed.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: We are very anxious, Sir. We are taking big loans for this purpose and we want a full note of the work of the Tractors.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How can I ask any Honourable Member to give an assurance in advance?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I request, Sir . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. It is open to any Honourable Member having regard to the circumstances to put a short notice question. Then, it will be sent to the Honourable Minister and then it will be considered. Honourable members know fully well the procedure to be adopted.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

STEPPING UP OF FOOD PRODUCTION

***677. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what progress, if any, has been made in (i) the supply of agricultural implements, (ii) the supply of chemical manure, (iii) encouraging the use of compost manure, and (iv) minor and major irrigation works for stepping up production, since the decision to stop imports at the end of 1951 was taken?

(b) What facilities and concessions, if any, are being given to the agriculturists in obtaining supplies of the items referred to in part (a) above and to what extent are the cultivators availing of those facilities and concessions?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information in detail is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XVII, annexure No. 6.)

PUSA ROAD COLONY

***678. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state how many of the quarters in the Pusa Road Colony for displaced persons collapsed during the rains and how many have been damaged?

(b) Have these quarters been reconstructed or repaired? If so, at what cost?

(c) Has any enquiry been made to find out what led to this collapse so soon?

(d) Has any action been taken against any person in this connection?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) to (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answers given to Starred Questions Nos. 108 and 424, answered on the 30th November and the 8th December, 1949 respectively.

ORISSA POSTAL CIRCLE

***679. Shri Yudhishtir Mishra:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state when the Orissa Postal Circle was completely separated from Bihar and what steps have been taken to organise the new Circle on a proper and sound basis?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Orders for the formation of an independent Post and Telegraph Circle for Orissa were issued on the 15th September, 1949, and its headquarters have since shifted from Puri to Cuttack. A full fledged Circle for Orissa has thus come into being.

NEW TELEGRAPH OFFICES (ORISSA POSTAL CIRCLE)

***680. Shri Yudhishtir Mishra:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the demand of the public for opening telegraph offices at Kantabanji Titilagarh, Nawapara or Khariar Road, Brajarajnagar and at some places in the integrated States of Orissa in the Orissa Postal Circle and if so, what steps have so far been taken to meet the public demand?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Yes. Orders for opening a Telegraph Office at Brajarajnagar have been issued and orders for opening a Telegraph Office at Kantabanji will be issued as soon as a guarantee against the loss involved in working the office is furnished to the Department. As regards the other places, the matter is under examination by the Director, Posts and Telegraphs, Orissa.

SALOONS FOR RAILWAY OFFICERS (ASSAM RAILWAY)

***681. Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many saloons are there at present in the use of officers of the Assam Railway?

(b) What was the number in use in the year 1948?

(c) Have any of the saloons been converted into 3rd class compartments and if so, how many?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Forty.

(b) Forty-eight.

(c) None have been converted.

RESTAURANT CARS ON THE RAILWAYS

***682. Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Restaurant Cars of E. I. Railways have been inspected recently by any supervising officer of the Railway;

(b) whether Government are aware that the quality of food served is rapidly deteriorating;

(c) what steps are going to be taken to improve the quality of food, cleanliness, and service in the Restaurant Cars of E. I. Railways; and

(d) whether Government will be pleased to consider the advisability of running 3rd class Restaurant Cars on different Railways of India?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Yes.

(b) The quality of foodstuffs supplied has not deteriorated except to the extent to which the general quality of food materials in the country has deteriorated.

(c) Periodical inspections of the Restaurant Cars are conducted at regular intervals by the Railway and, wherever necessary, action is taken to bring about such improvements as may be possible.

(d) So long as seating accommodation continues to be insufficient, it is not possible to run more restaurant cars but the provision of adequate catering facilities at stations is given special attention.

WHEAT FROM U.S.A.

***683. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether any negotiations are going on with the Government of United States of America for import of one million ton of wheat to build up a reserve at the Centre and if so, is it proposed to import the same on barter basis or cash basis?

(b) How will the devaluation of the rupee in terms of dollar affect this deal?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). Yes. As the negotiations have not yet concluded, it would not be in the public interest to say anything more on this matter at this stage.

PROCUREMENT OF FOOD GRAINS

***684. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) what target is fixed for procurement of food grains in the *Kharif* and *Rabi* crops in different provinces, states and Union of States, and what is the total quantity of food grains actually procured by the different provinces and State Governments in both the crops, and how far the actual procurement or the expected quantity to be procured compare with the target figures;

(b) whether the Government of India have evolved a uniform policy in respect of the procurement of food grains in all the provinces, States or Union of States;

(c) whether it is the policy of the Government to insist on compulsory procurement from both the deficit and the surplus areas, and in which of the provinces, States or State Unions the policy of compulsory procurement is being enforced and with what results;

(d) in which provinces, States or Union of States the policy of imposing a levy on the yield of food grains is being pursued and whether this is being done by the provinces or State Governments concerned on their own initiative and responsibility or is it being done under the direction of the Government of India;

(e) whether Government are aware that the said imposition of compulsory levy and forcible realisation of the same has been and is being resented by

the peasantry concerned and that it has also lead to untoward incidents and if so, in which provinces and States and whether the Government of India intend to revise their policy in respect of such areas?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix XVII, annexure No. 7.*)

(b) to (d). The system of procurement conforms to the local circumstances and is designed to yield best results under those circumstances. The Central Government exercises general powers of direction and superintendence. A note indicating the systems of procurement obtaining in each Province/State is also placed on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix XVII, annexure No. 8.*)

(e) Government are aware that in certain areas the cultivators are opposed to Government procurement but with its policy of maximizing procurement within the country in the coming years, there is no alternative but to procure surplus food grains from the cultivators in a manner which yields best results.

HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT

***685. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to make a statement about the Hirakud Dam project as regards its progress in different directions?

(b) How many people have been appointed in the Hirakud Dam project?

(c) What is the number of people appointed in higher posts, carrying a pay of Rs. 200 per month and upward?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) A note indicating the up-to-date progress on the Hirakud Dam Project is laid on the Table of the House. (See *Appendix XVII, annexure No. 9.*)

(b) The total number of persons appointed on the Hirakud Dam Project is 2131.

(c) The number of persons appointed to posts carrying a pay of Rs. 200 per mensem or more is 57.

WHEAT AND OTHER CEREALS

***686. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that wheat and other cereals were allowed to rot in open rain in Delhi in the second or the third week of July 1949?

(b) If so, what was the total weight of this wheat and how much of it was spoiled?

(c) Who was responsible for allowing this wheat to rot outside?

(d) Has any inquiry been instituted and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) In the month of July, 1949, owing to permanent storage accommodation of food grains available with the Delhi Administration proving insufficient due to heavy arrivals of food grains at that time, some quantity were kept in the open for lack of storage space.

(b) About 3,500 bags in all got wet but out of this only 18 bags were seriously damaged.

(c) and (d). Yes, an inquiry was instituted and the finding was that the Director of Civil Supplies of Delhi Province had failed to take serious steps to secure additional accommodation in time.

WHEAT

*687. **Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state if Government have any estimate of the total amount of wheat spoiled during the year 1948-49 while lying in Government stores?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: 248 tons in Central Government godowns and 655 tons in Provincial Governments' godowns.

TRACTOR CULTIVATION

*688. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the area under tractor cultivation in India at present?

(b) What is the target figure for such cultivation during 1949-50?

(c) What is the assistance that is being given to private individuals for bringing new areas under cultivation with the help of the tractor?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) According to the reports received from most of the provinces and states an area of 5,17,957 acres was under tractor cultivation in 1945-50.

(b) 5,78,100.

(c) A statement showing the assistance given by the various Provincial Governments is placed on the Table. (See *Appendix XVII, annexure No. 10.*)

So far as the Central Government is concerned, assistance is being given in the following forms:

(i) Priority 1(h) for movement of machinery, etc. required for 'Grow More Food' campaign.

(ii) At the instance of government the Oil Companies have agreed to meet the private individuals requirements of fuel oils for agricultural purposes in full provided the demands are certified as genuine by the District Magistrates.

(iii) Tractors are allowed to be imported free of duty.

EQUIPMENT FOR RAILWAYS

*689. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what equipment has been purchased from the loan sanctioned by the World Monetary Fund for the development of Railways?

(b) What are the special items for which this loan would be utilised?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the loan of 34 million dollars obtained from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for financing partly the purchase of 418 locomotives, 60 boilers and spares for these locos, from the U.S.A. and Canada. By 31st October 1949, 162 of these locos, had been received in India and another 195 had been shipped.

HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT

*690. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started any work of rehabilitating the persons whose lands have been acquired for the Hirakud Dam Project;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, since when such work was started;

(c) how many acres of cultivable but un-reclaimed land have been reclaimed for re-settlement of persons, whose lands have been acquired or are to be acquired for the Hirakud Dam Project;

(d) out of the area in part (c) above how many acres have been actually made ready for cultivation;

(e) out of the area in part (d) above how many acres have been actually cultivated this year; and

(f) whether the persons whose houses have been acquired have been provided with houses elsewhere?

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

(b) Since February 1949.

(c) 600 acres.

(d) 200 acres.

(e) As no village has so far been displaced, no villagers have come forward to take up cultivation in the reclaimed area. As an experiment about 6 acres have been put under cultivation departmentally.

(f) The question of the villagers taking over other lands has not so far arisen as the villagers continue to cultivate their own land under acquisition. The responsibility for acquisition of land and for resettlement of the displaced population in the case of the Hirakud Dam Project rests with the Government of Orissa. The answers which are being given to this question and Unstarred Questions Nos. 21 to 24 are based on information supplied by that Government. I would, however, suggest that questions of this nature might more profitably be addressed to that Government in future.

BHAKRA AND NANGAL PROJECTS

*691. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) when the Bhakra and Nangal projects will be completed; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to expedite it?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) According to the programme framed by the East Punjab Government, the projects should be completed by the end of 1955-56. The work on the project may, however, have to be slowed down on account of financial stringency.

(b) All possible assistance has hitherto been rendered and will continue to be rendered to the East Punjab Government. The extent of this assistance will, of course, depend upon the financial situation from time to time.

MANENDRAGARH AND CHIRIMIRI RAILWAY STATIONS

***692. Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Railway yards at Manendragarh and Chirimiri Railway stations are heavily congested due to Coal traffic and the public and staff are put to great inconvenience while passing over the lines?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the advisability of finalising the construction scheme of an over-bridge at Manendragarh and an over-bridge and an approach road at Chirimiri?

(c) How long do Government expect to take for the completion of the scheme?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) and (b). Though coal traffic is heavy, there is no congestion in the station yards at Manendragarh and Chirimiri. At Manendragarh the station is sited on the same side as the town and the public do not have to cross the line to any great extent, but the Railway staff whose quarters are situated on the off-side do so to some extent. Since a level crossing exists near the home signal, an over bridge is not considered necessary for the present. At Chirimiri, however, where both the public and the staff have to cross the line to reach the station, the provision of an over bridge and approach road is under consideration.

(c) In view of the difficult steel procurement position, the over bridge at Chirimiri is not expected to be provided before the end of 1951.

RAILWAY BOARD'S OFFICE

***693. Ch. Ranbir Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to my starred question No. 1188 on 18th March 1949 and state when a decision in the matter of fixation of permanent strength of Railway Board's Office will be arrived at?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The question of the fixation of the permanent strength in the Railway Board's Office is associated with the scheme for the reorganisation of the Railway Board's ministerial services. The details of the scheme are under preparation and will be finalised very shortly.

BROAD GAUGE SYSTEM ON THE RAILWAYS

***694. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a proposal is under the consideration of Government to replace the present Metre Gauge line from Delhi to Fazilka via Rewari, Hissar and Bhatinda by Broad Gauge line?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: There is no proposal under consideration at present, for the conversion of the entire Metre Gauge line from Delhi to Fazilka into Broad Gauge. The question of converting the Delhi-Rewari section was considered recently, but the proposal has since been dropped. The question of dismantling the existing Metre Gauge line between Bhatinda and Kot Kapura and converting the Metre Gauge section between Fazilka and Kot Kapura into Broad Gauge is at present under consideration.

NEW MINES

***695. Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil exists in the area round about Jwala Mukhi (Kangra District, East Punjab);

(b) whether it is a fact that there are extensive iron ores in Mandi State (now Himachal Pradesh);

(c) whether it is a fact that coal and sulphur deposits exist in Chamba State (now Himachal Pradesh);

(d) whether it is a fact that there is a silver mine at Rupi in Kulu Valley;

(e) if the replies to parts (a) to (d) above be in the affirmative, whether any survey has been made with regard to all or any of these; and

(f) if so, with what results?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) This has not yet been established.

(b) Scattered iron ores do exist there, but no large concentrated masses capable of exploitation on a large scale have so far been located.

(c) A small but unworkable quantity of poor grade coal occurs in the Tertiary rock formation there. No deposits of sulphur have so far been discovered there.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes, the survey of the areas mentioned in parts (a) and (b) above was carried out during 1948-49 and is still in progress. The area mentioned in part (c) was visited in 1947 and that mentioned in part (d) during 1948-49.

(f) Copies of the reports regarding (a) and (c) are laid on the Table. (Copy placed in the Library. See Nos. P-42/49 to P-44/49.)

Reports regarding (b) and (d) are at present under preparation by the Director, Geological Survey of India, and will be placed in the Library of the Legislature as soon as they become available.

DAMAGE TO CROPS IN RAJASTHAN BY PHADKAS

***696. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the area covering about 32,000 acres of khariff crop, yielding at least one and a half lakhs of maunds worth about Rs. 20 lakhs in a single district of Udaipur in Rajasthan was damaged by Phadka this year?

(b) Is it a fact that Rajasthan Government asked Plant Protection Adviser, Government of India, for help and protection against Phadka on the 30th July, 1949, but the help reached the affected area on the 21st September, 1949 when it was too late?

(c) Has any Technical Officer of Plant Protection calculated the damage to crops?

(d) What measures are being taken to guard against such damage by Phadka in future?

The Honourable Shri Jaitamdas Doulatram: (a) Government of India have no precise information regarding the extent of the damage.

(b) The information was received by the Plant Protection Adviser, Government of India, near about the 30th July, 1949, when the pest had already taken a violent form and had attacked the cultivated fields. A Technical Officer, with five dusting machines and some poison, was sent to the infested area on 7th August, 1949, and an Assistant Director on 10th August, 1949. Immediate orders were placed for the supply of more poison and dusting machines. Eight tons of insecticides were despatched from Calcutta on the 10th August and another ten tons from Bombay on the 19th August but their delivery was delayed because the consignments had to be transhipped from broad to metre gauge. Moreover, one consignment intended for Deogarh in Udaipur was wrongly despatched to Deogarh (South India).

(c) No.

(d) The Rajasthan Government has been asked to set up a Plant Protection Organisation. Until this is done, the Government of India's Plant Protection Directorate will render all possible help as soon as information is received.

INSTITUTES FOR TRAINING IN AGRICULTURE

*697. **Shri Nandkishore Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the number and names of Institutes for imparting training in Agriculture run by the Government of India in Delhi and outside?

(b) Do Government propose to abolish any of these Institutes as an economy measure and if so, which are they?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) One. The Central College of agriculture at Delhi.

(b) It is proposed to continue the college for three years.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

20. **Shri Upendranath Barman:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loans and grants sanctioned to Provincial Governments and local administrations during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50 for "Grow More Food Campaign";

(b) the subsidies granted to Provinces and States on account of imported foodgrains and procurement bonuses during the same period; and

(c) the total area under cultivation and yield of cereals in the year 1948-49?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). Five statements giving the required information are placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XVII, annexure No. 11.)

On account of the Grow More Food schemes sponsored by various Provincial/State Governments an additional production according to these Governments of 7.28 lakh tons was achieved during the year 1948-49.

RAIYATI LAND IN ORISSA (HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT)

21. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in and prior to 1939, market rate for raiyati land in the district of Sambalpur (Orissa) was calculated at 192 (one hundred and ninety two) times the deduced rent;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Orissa have issued a circular to the effect that compensation for raiyati land acquired in the district of Sambalpur for the Hirakud Dam Project should vary between 283 to 500 times the deduced rent of the land;

(c) whether Government have fixed five hundred times the deduced rent as the maximum limit of compensation payable for raiyati land to be acquired for the Hirakud Dam Project;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, the reason for fixing such a maximum limit; and

(e) the maximum limit of multiple of deduced rent at which compensation for raiyati land acquired for the Hirakud Dam Project has been paid so far?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes. This is reported to have been the normal rate.

(b) to (d). This is a matter for the Government of Orissa who have reported that compensation for land acquired for the Hirakud Project is settled under Section 7 of the Orissa Development of Industries, Irrigation, Agriculture, Capital Construction and Resettlement of Displaced Persons (Land Acquisition) Act, 1948. The minimum compensation payable is the value of land in 1939 plus 50 per cent. to provide for the subsequent increase in price. The compensation so payable is reported to work out 288 times the deduced rent for the lands acquired. Efforts are generally made to fix compensation by mutual agreement.

(e) The maximum compensation paid so far is reported to work out to 374 times the deduced rent. The Government of Orissa have reported that cases of payment at still higher rates are under their consideration.

COMPENSATION FOR FRUIT TREES (C.W.I.N.C.)

22. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of fruit-bearing trees in the district of Sambalpur have been cut down or otherwise acquired for the Central Water Power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission;

(b) whether any compensation has been paid for the trees and if so, at what rates;

(c) whether there is any scientific basis for holding that mango, mahua, tamarind and Jaimun trees give fruit for eight years only; and

(d) whether there is discontent among the people over the rate of payment of compensation?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes. Some fruit trees have been cut for purposes of Hirakud Dam Project of the Government of Orissa.

(b) Yes. Information with regard to the actual rates paid for the trees, has been called for from the Government of Orissa and will be intimated to the Honourable Member later.

(c) The question has been referred to the Government of Orissa and scientific experts; their views will be intimated to the Honourable Member in due course.

(d) The Government of Orissa has reported that majority of the owners are accepting the compensation as fixed by mutual agreement; they therefore think that there is no reason for any discontent on this account.

COMPENSATION FOR LAND (HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT)

23. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of compensation paid for land acquired for the Hirakud Dam Project;

(b) the area in respect of which such compensation has been paid;

(c) the average amount of compensation actually paid per acre of land acquired so far;

(d) whether in one village Jamda one man has been paid three annas only for one decimal of cultivated land acquired from him and another man has been paid six annas only for two decimals of cultivated land; and

(e) whether Government are aware that there is discontent among the people over the rate of compensation offered or paid to them?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Rs. 3,39,121/14/3.

(b) 2,500 acres.

(c) The average price paid for paddy growing land is reported to be Rs. 242 per acre and that for dry land, Rs. 90 per acre.

(d) No.

(e) Government of Orissa have intimated that the compensation paid for the land acquired is fixed by mutual agreement. In view of this, the Provincial Government think there is no reason to believe that there is discontent on this account.

COMPENSATION FOR LAND (HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT)

24. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the area for which compensation for land acquired for the Hirakud Dam Project has been fixed by Government; and

(b) whether it is a fact that for land acquired in the year 1946, the compensation has not been paid or offered as yet and in some cases, compensation has not even been fixed by Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) About 4,000 acres.

(b) No land was acquired in 1946 for the Hirakud Project.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Monday, 19th December, 1949

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

Mr. Speaker: Before I call upon Honourable Members to put their questions, I have to inform them that, I am told that the Honourable Minister for Rehabilitation who was to be here in time for answering questions could not come, because his train has been delayed.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We can wait for about fifteen minutes. I understand that the train is on the point of arriving.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I understand the train has been detained at Moradabad. They are coming by motor car.

Mr. Speaker: This is the first time when an Honourable Minister could not be present to answer questions. Whatever the reason might be, we shall wait for some time. In any case, if the Honourable Minister does not turn up, we shall not take up the questions. The Chief Whip, the Honourable Minister of State, would have taken up those questions, but unfortunately the file came to him too late and the questions, if at all answered, will have to go without supplementaries. That will only mean unnecessarily taking up the time of the House. I hope such a thing will not recur again and steps will be taken to see that when an Honourable Minister leaves the station, he has also a second string to the bow by way of instructing some other person to answer the questions.

Now, question No. 700, Mr. Sidhva.

An Honourable Member: What about 698?

Mr. Speaker: It has been withdrawn.

PREFABRICATED ROOFINGS AND BUILDINGS

***699. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether any orders have been placed by the Government of India for the supply of prefabricated roofings from abroad?

* Answer to this question laid on the Table, the honourable Minister being absent.

(b) If so, with what firm have such orders been placed and at what price and when will the shipment be made?

(c) Will these roofings be used for pucca houses to be built or are they meant for some other purposes?

(d) For whom have these roofings been imported?

(e) Have any pre-fabricated buildings been imported from foreign countries?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) Yes.

(b) Orders have been placed with Messrs. Sveaexport, Stockholm, Sweden at Rs. 119/- per roof. The consignment has already been received.

(c) These roofs are intended to be placed on traditionally constructed houses.

(d) For displaced persons.

(e) We have accepted a donation of two prefabricated houses from Messrs. Sveaexport. Hardboard huts have also been imported from Sweden to replace tents in camps for displaced persons and for similar emergencies.

TRADE WITH PERSIAN GULF

***700. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what kind of trade—import and export—exists between India and the Persian Gulf (Bahrein, Kuwait, Busra and Baghdad)?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of appointing a trade agent for these places?

(c) Are there any possibilities of improvement in the trade with the countries of that region?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House showing the main commodities concerned in and the total value of imports from and exports to Bahrein, Kuwait and Iraq during the three years ending 1948-49 (*Information placed in the Library See No. P. 45/49*).

(b) There is already a Commercial Secretary attached to the Legation of India in Iraq, whose jurisdiction covers Iraq and the Arab Sheikdoms on the Persian Gulf, including Bahrein and Kuwait.

(c) Government consider there is a scope for expansion of trade with these countries.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether in this connection a two-man mission was sent to Bahrein, in the Persian Gulf, and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Two-man mission? From the papers before me, I do not find any formal mission having been sent to Bahrein.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether Dr. C. S. Jha of the External Affairs Ministry and Prof. Md. Ali Habib of the Aligarh University were sent to these places for trade purposes and is it a fact that Indian merchants of that area told them that trade relationship with that area should be increased considerably.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The gentlemen that the Honourable Member has mentioned have nothing to do with the Commerce Ministry. They might have gone there on political missions and incidentally trade matters may have come up for consideration.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What are the trade conditions between India and the Persian Gulf? How much are the imports from India to this area?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have laid on the Table of the House very elaborate statistics. Imports from India into all these places amounted to Rs. 4,20,12,000 in all in the year 1948-49.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Has it increased or decreased as compared with last year?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may study the statement.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: What are the active steps that the Government are taking to extend trade to these countries?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Well, apart from the general measures that we always take in this matter, there is a talk going on with Iraq about a Trade Mission which is likely to come to India. Iraq has got a considerable trade with India and our hopes are in extending our trade with Iraq rather than with any other country in this group.

MONAZITE SAND

***701. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have entered into an agreement with a foreign firm for the processing of Monazite Sand in India?

(b) If so, what is the name of the firm and what are the terms of the agreement?

(c) In what part of the country is this sand available?

(d) Has it been surveyed by geologists from the commercial point of view, and if so, with what result?

(e) For the manufacture of what articles will this sand be useful?

(f) What is the total quantity available?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (e). The Government of India have entered into an agreement with two French firms to set up a plant for the processing of monazite sands in India. A copy of a Press note dated 7th June, 1949, dealing with this subject is laid on the Table of the House (*See Appendix XVIII, annexure No. 1*). The names of the firms are the "Banque Marocaine de Credit" and the "Societe de Produits Chimiques des Terres Rares".

(c) Deposits of monazite sand occur at various places on the West Coast. There are also some isolated patches on the East Coast.

(d) and (f) A detailed survey is in progress. Surveys made thus far have revealed that large quantities of this sand with good possibilities from the commercial point of view are available.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know from the Honourable the Prime Minister whether Indian scientists will be trained by this firm?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is one of the conditions of the agreement.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I have the pleasure of knowing the conditions?
Mr. Speaker: He said that was one of the conditions.

MACHINERY FOR COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

†*702. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether a deputation has been sent to Japan for the purchase of machinery for cottage industries?

(b) If so, who are the members of the deputation?

(c) Will the machinery purchased be for handicrafts or industry worked by power?

(d) Has any amount been defined for the purchase of such machinery?

(e) What arrangement has been made to see that the machinery and tools for cottage industries proposed to be purchased would be suitable for use in India?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes. It visited Japan in May-June, 1949.

(b) (i) Shri N. C. Shrivastava, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Rehabilitation.

(ii) Shri Chaman Lal, Member, Cottage Industries Board, representing Ministry of Industry and Supply.

(c) The machinery is both hand and power driven.

(d) Rs. 72,000 were spent on the purchase of machinery for the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rs. 37,000 for the Ministry of Industry and Supply.

Additional machinery for small scale industries for supplying to displaced persons will be obtained. Enquiries have been made from the State and Provincial Governments as to the requirements of displaced persons within their areas.

(e) Most of the machinery purchased by the Ministry of Rehabilitation will be operated at our Training Centre at Arab-ki-Sarai, New Delhi; and the machinery purchased by the Ministry of Industry and Supply will be installed at Hardwaganj (near Aligarh). Arrangements for the training of displaced persons from different States and Provinces have been made. The instructors and the Officers of Provincial Governments will also be given facilities for inspection and study of the working of these machines.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS (REPORT)

*703. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any American Engineer has been invited by the Government of India to report on the industrial progress of this country,

(b) if so, the name of the engineer together with his emoluments and conditions;

(c) whether he has arrived in India and made any report; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to lay a copy of the report on the Table of the House?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Presumably, the Honourable Member has in mind the appointment of Dr. S. Trone, an American Engineer.

* Answer to this question laid on the Table, the honourable Minister being absent.

He was invited not to report on the industrial progress of this country, but to advise us generally about planning and development.

(b) Dr. Trone is entitled to the following emoluments:—

(i) a monthly remuneration of 2,000 U. S. dollars or the equivalent in rupees for the period of his stay with the Government of India.

(ii) Travelling expenses for himself and Mrs. Trone from U. S. A. to New Delhi and back.

(iii) Travelling expenses for himself and Mrs. Trone in connection with his duties.

(iv) Free accommodation in New Delhi.

(c) Dr. Trone assumed charge of his duties on 12th August, 1949. He has submitted four reports.

(d) No. The reports are treated as confidential and at present there is no intention of making them public.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I have some information on his investigation about the industrial progress in this country?

Mr. Speaker: The question is not clear. What is the specific question?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether he is planning for India's industrial progress?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Dr. Trone was originally invited here for a brief period, for three months to begin with, to advise us. He has now been here about four months—I think a little more than four months—and he has given us a report, which we are considering, about the present state of industrial development, and what in his opinion should be done about it.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable the Prime Minister said that this report was confidential. May I know whether this report will be made available to the House or whether it will be treated as confidential for us?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Documents, if they are confidential, are normally not made available to the House.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the reason for treating this report on the industrial development of India confidential?

Mr. Speaker: That is entering into arguments.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: With regard to (c), may I know what centres of industry Dr. Trone has visited and submitted reports on?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Dr. Trone has visited several parts of India. He has visited West Bengal area, Bihar area, the D. V. A., Jamshedpur, the fertiliser factory, etc.; South India, Bangalore, Bombay area, the Punjab, etc. So he has gone to various places where we have got big concerns running or where we intend to have them. His report is generally on these questions.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has Dr. Trone's tenure of office been fixed or is it indefinite?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As a matter of fact, Dr. Trone was first in India for three months. The period of three months expired when I was away in the United States. Before I went I suggested that he might continue till he completed this particular work and that after that we might

consider as to what we should do for the future. As a matter of fact we intend, for the present, ending his tenure about the end of this month. Afterwards, when we have considered his report fully, we shall see what more can be done about it.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know whether previous to his engagement here Dr. Trone was an employee of the U. S. A. Government or had some other industrial experience?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Dr. Trone's experience is perhaps so unique that I hardly think anybody else can come up to it. He is an Electrical Engineer employed by the General Electric Company of the United States. He was sent by the General Electric Company to Russia before the Revolution for their work. He was in Russia for a number of years as an Electrical Engineer and later also throughout the Five Year Plan in which he was one of the important persons engaged by the Soviet Government. Altogether he spent eight or nine years in Russia, working there. Subsequently he had been to Germany and Italy in connection with large industrial schemes. He was then engaged by the Chinese Government and he has spent several years there, in China. He has been to Japan, Manchuria, Formosa. That is to say, he has covered Asia and America pretty thoroughly and has seen considerable upheavals and changes. So his experience is really remarkable.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that over and above the 2,000 U. S. Dollars that Government is paying him, Government has offered to meet all the travelling and other expenses of both him and his wife, hotel bills included?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As I have stated, he was coming for a brief period and we engaged him on the terms that the Chinese Government were paying him at the time.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: May I know if Dr. Trone's investigation covers the starting of new industries or the working and expansion of the existing industries?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The House will appreciate that in the course of three months no person, however able, can bring out a detailed plan for all India. He has advised us about the present situation, the faults and errors in it, what is important and might be given first priority and what second priority. He has not gone into details as to particular industries because his whole outlook, if I may say so, is concentration on the primary things.

IMPORT (FILMS)

*704. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of films imported into India during the year 1948-49 for the cinema industry;

(b) the total amount realised by Government as import duty on the said films in 1948-49; and

(c) the names of countries from which films are imported into India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) 15,64,16,403 feet of raw cinematograph films and 1,23,91,060 feet of exposed films were imported into India by sea from abroad during 1948-49.

(b) The total amount of import duty collected on cinematograph films, not exposed, and cinematograph films, exposed, during the same period was Rs. 24,68,186 and Rs. 20,00,458, respectively.

(c) The United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, Belgium, Italy and the United States of America were the principal countries from which raw films were imported, while in the case of exposed films, the main supplying countries were the United Kingdom, Ceylon, Burma and the United States of America. Imports of Raw films are however now being licensed only from Soft Currency areas, mainly from U. K. and Eastern Germany.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know what percentage of the total imports was consumed by the different Departments of the Government, namely Information and Broadcasting, Survey of India, and the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have not got the information with me. My honourable colleague the Minister for Information and Broadcasting might be in a better position to give the information.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether these Government Departments import directly their own requirements or do they buy them from the local market?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have not got the information.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What has been the total import in the current year up to this time?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have not got the figures for the current year.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know the total cost of imports for 1948-49?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The cost was: For Raw Films Rs. 76,96,416 and for Exposed Films Rs. 31,52,042.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have any steps been taken or are any steps being taken to manufacture raw films in India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid that again is a matter which is not my direct concern.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know the total value of the imports from U. S. A.?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The figures have not been given separately according to the countries of origin.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is the import of Exposed Films restricted by any conditions imposed by Government or is free import allowed?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is not a question of free import. We have a ceiling. The ceiling is fixed for every six monthly period—I am talking of the present and the future policy. Subject to that ceiling the dealers—mainly the representatives of foreign manufacturing concerns—apply for licence for the import. Generally that is the position.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Would the Honourable Minister please tell us what is the total amount we have had to pay in hard currency for these imports?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That classification is not here with me at the moment. I have given the total figures.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is there any duty levied on the Exposed Films that are imported?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I take it my friend means import duty. The duty is as follows: Exposed Films bear a duty of four annas per linear foot and films not exposed bear a duty of three pies per linear foot.

COTTAGE INDUSTRY

***705. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred by Government for the propagation of Cottage Industry in the country during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50 to date?

(b) What is the monthly profit from the Cottage Industries Emporium at New Delhi after meeting the expenses per month?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply to Starred Question No. 212 by Prof. N. G. Ranga on first December, 1949.

(b) There is no profit at present.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: If there is no profit may I know whether there is any loss and whether Government has to pay any subsidy to the Emporium for running the show?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government is now spending about Rs. 3,000 per month to keep the Emporium going.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What is the monthly sale in the Emporium and what is the expenditure for running it?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The average monthly sale will be about Rs. 8,000. As I said the expenditure per month is about Rs. 3,000.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Is the amount of expenditure incurred on the propaganda commensurate with the development of cottage industries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The propaganda has undoubtedly stimulated it though it has not achieved all that we wanted. But attempts are being made to consolidate the efforts.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Was any non-official Committee sent to Japan to study the cottage industries there?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No committee was sent but one official and one non-official were sent, and they have submitted a report.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the Emporium is intended mostly for popularising the Indian cottage industries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is right and for helping exports.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With a view to making it profitable to the State, have Government instructed their Ambassadors, Diplomats and Ministers abroad to furnish their residences and offices with our cottage industry products as far as possible?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is being done as far as possible.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Do Government give any subsidy to any cottage industry, and if so, how much and to which industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have not granted subsidies in cash, but the biggest cottage industry in the country is the handloom industry and there, as I explained a few days ago, Government has decided that out of the total purchases of cloth which Government directly makes of Rs. 3 crores a year one crore will be kept in reserve for purchase from the handloom industry, if goods are available.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know what steps Government have taken for the development of cottage industries during the years in question?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That will require a long answer. If the Honourable Member so desires, I can place a full statement before the House indicating all the steps we have taken.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Are any special steps taken for the progress of khadi?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have said that we will be prepared to purchase khadi wherever possible. Of course, so far as special protection is concerned, that question has not been taken up though a Bill is now under examination for the purpose of seeing that genuine khadi alone is sold.

TIMBER INDUSTRY

***706. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Dr. Kamesam has submitted his report on timber?

(b) Have Government agreed to establish a timber treatment factory in Northern India with his help?

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

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What are the points on which Dr. Kamesam was asked to enquire and submit a report?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The report mainly deals with the possibility of using treated timber in place of steel.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What is the annual income of the Government of India from the timber industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I cannot say.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether any other foreign technicians have been invited to look into the matter?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir, we have not invited foreign experts.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Is there any timber treatment factory in existence now, and if so at what place?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is one at Bangalore which mainly deals with one particular type of treatment, but we have

advised the Provincial Governments to set up factories in their own areas and we will also give every possible encouragement to private enterprise in this respect.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know what portion of this work is done by the Ministry of Agriculture?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I suppose they ensure that adequate quantity of proper timber is available.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I know whether the treatment of timber by Ascu as invented by Dr. Kamesam is all in the hands of the American contractors?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as use in India is concerned, I believe it is controlled by Dr. Kamesam's invention.

EXODUS OF HINDUS FROM PAKISTAN

†*707. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government are aware that further exodus of Hindus has been going on from East as well as West Pakistan and what plans, if any, have been made to meet the contingency and to provide facilities for the uprooted people?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes. Provincial and State Governments have been requested to formulate schemes for their rehabilitation.

INDIANS IN CEYLON

†*708. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Indians living in Ceylon have been adversely affected by the Ceylon Nationality Bill, and if so, what steps have been taken to redress their grievances?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As already stated by me in reply to Question No. 206 asked by the Honourable Member on the 8th February, 1949, the Government of India have not agreed to several of the provisions contained in the Ceylon Government's two enactments namely, (1) Ceylon Citizenship Act No. 18 of 1948 and (2) Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act No. 3 of 1949 under which Indians in Ceylon may obtain Ceylon Citizenship. The Ceylon Indian Congress, a representative body of Indians in Ceylon, has since decided not to apply for or accept citizenship under these conditions. The Government of India have not taken any action in the matter after the correspondence between the two Governments, which has been published. The Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act was brought into force on the 5th August, 1949 and Indians in Ceylon will have two years' time from that date to get themselves registered as Ceylon Citizens. The Government of India are watching the developments and will take such action as they consider necessary at the appropriate time.

INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS

†*709. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how many new factories for sugar, paper, textiles and steel have closed down in the year 1948-49?

* Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent.

(b) How many new factories for producing the articles referred to in part (a) above have been opened in the year 1948-49?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). I place on the Table of the House a statement giving the information.

STATEMENT

Number of industrial units opened and closed during 1948-49.

Name of Industry.	Number of units closed.	Number of units opened.	Remarks.
Sugar.	Four	Five (of which three are new)	
Paper.	Nil	Nil	
Textiles.			
(i) Cotton Mills.	Nil	*Seven	*Total spindlage being 73,200.
Silk and artificial silk mills.	Nil	6	
(iii) Woollen mill.	Nil	1	
Steel.	Nil	Nil	

*710. [WITHDRAWN.]

HINDUS IN WEST PUNJAB

†*711. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's Deputy High Commissioner in Lahore made a representation to the West Punjab Government against the forcible evacuation of Hindus from West Punjab;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what was the result of that representation;

(c) the number of cases in which the West Punjab authorities have made it impossible for non-Muslims to stay there even when they had never left their homes; and

(d) whether Government are considering any steps in the matter?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) and (b). Yes, the Deputy High Commissioner made two representations to the West Punjab Government in respect of 12 families in all. In both cases the families were continuously living in West Punjab since the partition.

Instructions have since been issued against forcible evacuation of non-Muslims.

* Answer to this question laid on the Table, the honourable Minister being absent.

(c) The number of cases which came to the notice of the Deputy High Commissioner, Lahore, are two, as under:—

(i) Nine families consisting of 67 persons in all, who had been living in West Punjab continuously since partition were forcibly brought to Lahore and were subsequently evacuated to India.

(ii) Three families consisting of twelve persons were forcibly recovered and brought to Lahore, although they were living with adult male members related to them.

(d) Does not arise.

EVACUATION OF NON-MUSLIMS FROM KARACHI

*712. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of evacuation of non-Muslims from Karachi had increased during September—October, 1949;

(b) if so, what is this due to and what was the number of non-Muslims who left Karachi during May, June, July, August, September and October, 1949; and

(c) whether the residential houses, business houses, industrial concerns and cinema houses belonging to non-Muslims have been taken possession of by the Custodian even when the owners had constantly been living in Karachi?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) Yes.

(b) The increased exodus from Sind by way of Karachi is due to a number of causes such as disturbed conditions in certain towns in Sind, the enforcement of Evacuee Property and Rehabilitation Ordinances, the high-handedness of Officers, the hostile attitude of local people and the inability of non-Muslims to secure redress at the hands of Pakistan Government. A statement showing the number of non-Muslims evacuated with the help of the Indian High Commissioner at Karachi during the months May to October, 1949 is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, a number of such cases have been brought to our notice.

STATEMENT

May 1949.	305
June 1949.	596
July 1949.	395
August 1949.	582
September 1949.	3,146
October 1949.	2,909

NAUTICAL TRAINING AND ENGINEERING

*713. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state how many nautical training and engineering colleges there are in the Indian Union?

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the honourable Minister being absent.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(b) Where are they located?

(c) How many students can they train every year?

(d) How many students have come out successful from these colleges during the last four years?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). I would invite Honourable Member's attention to the answer I gave to Question No. 574 put by my Honourable friend Mr. R. K. Sidhva on the 14th December last. As I stated, there is the Training Ship *Dufferin* in Bombay for imparting pre-sea navigational training and a post-sea Nautical and Engineering College also at Bombay. The Directorate of Marine Engineering Training, Bombay, which has a branch at Calcutta, is in charge of the Pre-sea training of Engineers and when those apprenticed for this purpose with workshops, etc., at Bombay and Calcutta have completed their workshop training it is proposed to impart to them theoretical pre-sea instruction at a Marine Engineering College that is proposed to be started in Calcutta. These are the facilities that now exist. They have come into force from the 1st October, 1948.

The Honourable Member is probably aware that previously there was only the Training Ship *Dufferin* to train up candidates for both the Navigational and Engineering side and there was no facility in India for any post-sea training at all.

(c) The *Dufferin* can now take 80 candidates for Navigational training per year. The Marine Engineering College will also be designed to accommodate about 80 candidates per year.

The Nautical and Engineering College, Bombay can accommodate about 100 candidates at a time and in a year four such batches could be trained.

(d) The *Dufferin* which alone existed for previous years turned out 20, 23, 25, 26 Nauticals and 20, 24, 24, 26 Engineers during 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948 respectively.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Have all successful students been absorbed?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not all of them have been absorbed in a sea career but those who have not been thus absorbed have in many cases found very suitable occupation elsewhere.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Have any of those successful candidates been sent abroad for further experience?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, I think so. Of course I was meaning the *Dufferin* candidates—I think my honourable friend also had that in mind.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Yes.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Have Government examined the feasibility of opening a marine engineering college at Vizagapatam?

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

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the British India Steam Navigation Company take Indians who passed out from this training course?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I said just three days ago that I would be making enquiries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What the expenditure incurred on these two training centres?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have not got the figure here.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I enquire whether the nautical training includes submarine training, and if so, has India any submarines?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I must make it quite clear that the training, to which I have referred, has nothing to do with naval training properly so-called. This training is intended for the purpose of finding officers for the Merchant Navy.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: In view of our expanding Merchant Navy, are these men sufficient for manning our ships?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: For the time being, yes.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: But are there proposals to expand the facilities?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Oh, yes.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know the number of candidates who applied for training and the number who were finally selected for training during the years in question?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Training where? There are so many schemes to which I have referred.

Shri Raj Bahadur: In the *Dufferin*.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I must ask notice for that.

INDIGENOUS COTTON

*714. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of each variety of indigenous cotton consumed by the mills in India during the year 1948-49; and

(b) the measures which the Government of India have so far taken or intend to take in future to make India self-sufficient in cotton of each variety and the date by which it is expected to reach this objective?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Statement is placed on the Table of the House (See *Appendix XVIII, annexure No. 2.*)

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture have formulated schemes to increase the production of cotton in India next year. Following measures have been taken to increase production of cotton:—

(i) Diversion of 13.75 lakh acres to additional areas of cotton which will give us 3.04 lakh bales.

(ii) Manuring of 13.75 lakh acres with 91,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia which will give us 1.06 lakh bales.

(iii) Mixed cropping of cotton with groundnut for 13.35 lakh acres, which will give us 0.77 lakh bales.

(iv) Improved seed on one million acres which will give us 0.10 lakh bales.

Total—4.97 lakh bales.

This work will be supervised in collaboration with the Indian Central Cotton Committee.

Efforts are being made to import at least eight lakh bales of cotton. Necessary restrictions have also been placed on the export of cotton.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: May I know whether this will be short staple cotton or long staple cotton?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It will be both. We will try to improve the existing varieties.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Cannot those mills which require only long staple be switched on to use short staple cotton?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is technically.

Shri H. V. Pataskar: Is Government aware that production of cotton in the Khandesh tract of Bombay province has gone down ever since it was made compulsory to grow Jarilla cotton only in that area?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe that is so. That was discussed at the last Conference in Bombay.

Shri H. V. Pataskar: If so, is it intended by Government to repeal Jarilla Act, as it will give us several lakhs of bales more?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am prepared to ask the Agriculture Ministry to consider that.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Which province is this additional acreage to come from?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: C.P. is there, I can assure the Honourable Member. Then, Bombay, East Punjab, Patiala, Madras, Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan and Saurashtra, etc.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: Is it a fact that over eleven mills in Ahmedabad have recently given notice of closing down owing to shortage of cotton?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe about seven mills have closed down.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: What immediate steps do Government propose to take to meet this acute shortage of cotton?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We will try to supply cotton as far as possible.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Law Minister of Bombay has made a statement three days ago that the situation in Bombay mills is very acute for want of cotton?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the area intended to be diverted for cotton cultivation is already under other crops at present and if so, what are those crops?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We do not propose to divert any large area under food crops for this purpose, but it might affect some other crop.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: What incentive has been given to the producer by Government to produce more cotton?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Reasonable prices.

TIBETAN TRADES MISSION

*715. **Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the result of the Tibetan Trades Mission which arrived in India at the beginning of the year 1949?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to part (d) of starred question No. 414 by Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on the 16th February, 1949 in reply to which a statement was laid on the Table of the House summarising *inter alia* the result of the trade talks which we had with the Tibetan Trade Mission. No developments have taken place since that answer was given.

Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung: Is it a fact that the Government of India have appointed a Tibetan Trade Liaison Officer at Kalimpong?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, there is one.

Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung: What are his functions?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as I am aware, his functions are to look after the interests of India in regard to trade and other matters.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have our exports to Tibet increased ever since?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know about that.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Are any developments expected to ensue in the near future?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Developments in what direction?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In the direction which has been indicated in the answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member may refer to the answer first. Next Question.

SERICULTURE

*716. **Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage of land on which experiment on Sericulture is being done in Kalimpong (West Bengal); and

(b) the quality of silk produced there?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) About six acres.

(b) No experimental raw silk has yet been reeled at Kalimpong. The quality of cocoons produced at Kalimpong is, however, of high grade. Laboratory yield of raw silk from the cocoons produced there has given a high Reeling Index.

Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung: Is it a fact that a portion of the land is under banana cultivation; if so, may I know if it has anything to do with sericulture?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not know the connection between banana and silk.

SPINDLES AND LOOMS

*717. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what are the number of spindles and looms imported into the country during 1949-50?

* Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent.

(b) How have they been distributed?

(c) Has any preference been given to any party or any out-of-turn allotment made to any province?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). A statement giving information regarding spindles is placed on the Table of the House. No figures of imports of looms are available, as a large number of looms were imported under the Open General License. It is, however, estimated that the imports could not have been less than in the last year's imports, *viz.*, 10,000 looms.

(c) No.

STATEMENT

Spindles imported from 1st January 1949 to 30th November 1949 and their distribution.

SPINDLES IMPORTED.—From U.K. 2,49,716, From Japan 2,24,290, From U.S.A. 37,000. (Total 5,11,006)

DISTRIBUTION.—Bombay 2,68,002, Bengal 39,316, Madras 1,23,960, Hyderabad 16,252, Madhyabharat 808, Delhi 3,200, Mysore 17,000, U.P. 22,928, Bihar 5,000, Orissa 14,540. (Total 5,11,006)

REPARATIONS FROM GERMANY

*718. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how the machinery received up to date from Germany by way of reparations has been distributed among the various Provinces and States of India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The procedure followed is that details of such plant and machinery are circulated to various Government and semi-Government institutions. Lots of about 1,500 to 2,000 machines are displayed from time to time at the Reparations Depots to enable prospective indentors to inspect the machines and place their indents. Releases are made on the basis of indents received.

A statement showing releases of reparation plant and machinery so far made to Government Departments/Provincial Governments, etc., is placed on the Table.

* Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent.

STATEMENT

Number of machines

Ministry of Defence.	650
Ministry of Education.	109
Ministry of Railways.	515
Ministry of Rehabilitation.	63
Director of Housing, New Delhi.	11
Fertilizer Project, Sindri.	3
Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.	33
Government of Bombay.	18
Government of East Punjab.	103
Government of Madras.	105
Government of Orissa.	19
Government of the United Provinces.	15
Cochin Harbour.	1
Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore.	268
National Physical Laboratory.	35
National Chemical Laboratory.	27
Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute.	3
Total	1,977

Number of machines, mostly high precision machine tools, earmarked for the Government Machine Tool Factory to be erected at Bangalore 325.

SKILLED LABOUR

†*719. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state what progress has been made in the training of skilled workers required for the various industries in India?

(b) What are the categories of trade in which training is given and what is the target figure fixed for such training?

(c) How is the selection of personnel made?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) After the termination of the War, the Government of India in the Ministry of Labour (D.G.R. and E.) instituted Schemes for the technical and vocational training of demobilised Services personnel with a view to facilitating their resettlement in civil life and securing an adequate supply of skilled personnel for post-war industrial development. These Schemes were subsequently extended to displaced persons from Pakistan. There were 71 Technical and 67 Vocational Training Centres functioning under the Schemes on the 31st October, 1949. In addition, Apprenticeship training facilities were provided in 276 industrial undertakings. 23,189 trainees have passed out of the Centres up to this date and another 13,842 are still under training.

(b) There are 38 trades under the Technical Training Scheme and 47 under the Vocational Training Scheme in which training is being given. A list of the trades is placed on the Table (See Appendix XVIII, annexure No. 3.)

Owing to economy measures, expenditure has been curtailed to the extent of Rs. 37 lakhs which will result in the reduction of seats from 20,259 to 10,000, from next year. Under the new Scheme, civilian adults will be admitted for training.

(c) The selection of candidates is made by a Selection Committee in each Province.

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

SALT

*720. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state: (i) the total quantity of salt produced in India annually; (ii) the total quantity of salt required every year for normal consumption in India; (iii) the total quantity of salt imported from outside; and (iv) the names of the countries from where it is imported and the total cost thereof?

(b) What is the average *per capita* consumption of salt in India and how does this compare with the average *per capita* consumption in foreign countries like the United Kingdom and the United States of America?

(c) What steps do the Government of India intend to take to make salt cheaper and more abundant in supply?

(d) Have the Government of India prepared any plan for making India self-sufficient in production of salt and if so, by which year is self-sufficiency likely to be attained and in what manner and stages?

(e) Is it the policy of the Government of India to encourage the free manufacture of salt for private use as also for the development of cottage industry?

(f) If so, what steps have been taken so far or do Government intend to take in future to give impetus to the free manufacture of salt in the country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) (i) The average annual production for the last three years is 543 lakh maunds (479 lakh maunds in 1946, 516 lakh maunds in 1947 and 635 lakh maunds in 1948); estimated production in 1949 is about 600 lakh maunds. (ii) 648 lakh maunds according to present estimate. (iii) Imports during 1947 and 1948 were 120 lakh maunds each and during 1949 (up to November) 86 lakh maunds. (iv) Aden, Port Said, Italy and Pakistan. Total cost in 1949 is about Rs. 276 lakhs.

(b) Average *per capita* human consumption in India is 14.5 lbs. per annum as against 9.7 lbs. in U.S.A. The *per capita* human consumption in United Kingdom is not readily available. If the consumption for cattle and industry is included, the *per capita* consumption in India is 17.9 lbs. per annum as against 99 lbs. in United Kingdom and 205.7 lbs. in U.S.A.

(c) and (d). India is likely to be self-sufficient by the end of 1951. Our present plans for increased production include (i) laying out of new pans, cleaning of the brine percolation canals, condensers and crystallisers in Government factories, (ii) expansion of existing factories in the West Coast, and (iii) increasing the yield of private factories.

(e) and (f). We allow free production of salt for local consumption up to ten acres and issue licences for salt works with larger areas. Licences are freely granted with special preference to Co-operative Societies, if any, provided site is found suitable for production of salt at economic cost and if there are reasonable transport facilities.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the scarcity of salt has increased owing to scarcity of sugar?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Has any salt been imported from Pakistan after the devaluation of the rupee.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No salt has come from Pakistan.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the production in the Sambhar Lake is on the increase or decrease?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: On the increase.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: In view of the fact that India is not self-sufficient in salt, may I know the reasons why salt is being exported out of India to other countries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We export to Pakistan and that is salt which we import. We get the advantage of that quantity passing through our port in Calcutta.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether any steps are being taken by Government to make India self-sufficient in salt and if so, what are they?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have just said in the reply.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Do Government propose to increase our production above 600 lakh maunds or do they want to keep it stable?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If we could reach that figure by 1951, then we can certainly further increase in later years.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it a fact that we export salt to Nepal?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, we do export.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Is there any rock salt available anywhere else in India other than Pakistan,—say East Punjab?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It may be available in Himachal Pradesh. It is now under investigation.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: May I know if salt is being allowed to be moved freely or are there restrictions?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There are restrictions. We have prepared a zonal scheme for distribution in consultation with the Railway Ministry.

CAR FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY

*721. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state if a 12 Cylinder Cadillac Car was recently purchased by the Ministry of External Affairs?

(b) If so, at what price was it purchased and for what purpose?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) No. The Ministry has a Cadillac Car purchased in August, 1947.

(b) The price of the car was Rs. 19,000. It was purchased for the ceremonial purposes of the Ministry.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How many times has the car been used for any ceremonial purposes? My information is.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He need not disclose what his information is. The purpose of a question is to elicit information from Government and not to give information to Government.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: No, Sir, I am not giving any information. My information is that it is not being used.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I want to know whether it is being used.

Mr. Speaker: Let him put that question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I want to know whether it is being used for the purpose for which it had been purchased. Therefore, I said my information was that it was not being used.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If the Honourable Member thinks that I keep a record of every journey of the car, then he is very much mistaken.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In pursuance of the economy drive recently launched by Government, have instructions or directives been issued to all Ministries and our Embassies abroad not to go in for luxury cars?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: General instructions have been issued to economise, but no special instructions have been issued about automobiles or cars. As a matter of fact, so far as I am aware, no recent purchases have been made. They are all old purchases.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: It was said that this car was primarily meant for ceremonial functions. May I know whether these are well-recognised ceremonies or private ceremonies?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the Honourable Member means by private ceremonies. Private ceremonies have nothing to do with the Ministry's functions; they are the private affairs of private individuals.

LABOUR WELFARE FUND

*722. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state the amount collected by the Government as cess towards the Labour Welfare Fund in the Provinces of Bengal, Bihar, the Central Provinces and Berar and Orissa during the years, 1945-1946, 1947-1948 and 1949 separately and the amount actually spent on labour welfare activities in each province?

(b) Is it a fact that the amount collected towards the fund in one province has been spent in another and if so, how much has been so spent and which are the provinces concerned?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House (See Appendix XVIII, annexure No. 4). It is presumed that the question relates to the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund.

(b) No.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Are there any provinces in which this amount has not been spent at all?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Well, there is no province like that. But I may inform the House that very little has been spent in Orissa.

LABOUR WELFARE FUND OF KOREA STATE IN C. P.

*723. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the answer given to my starred question No. 554 asked on 21st February, 1949 and state whether the administration of the Labour Welfare Fund of Korea State (merged with the Central Provinces) has been taken over by the Central Government from the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar?

(b) If so, what is the amount so taken over and what is the scheme of Government to administer the same?

(c) Do Government propose to appoint an Advisory Committee to advise them regarding the administration and expenditure of this fund?

(d) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, why has delay been caused in taking over the fund and when do Government expect to take it over?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner was to have taken over charge of the administration of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund of Korea State on the 6th December, 1949 but intimation has been received that the Deputy Commissioner, Surguja could not hand over charge of cash balance pending verification of receipt of cess by the Railways.

(b) Information in regard to the first part of the question is still awaited from the Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner who has also been asked to prepare a scheme for the administration of the Fund in Korea. Till such a scheme is prepared and approved the welfare measures that are in existence in that area will continue.

(c) The local Committee already in existence in Korea will continue to function in an advisory capacity, but the whole question may be reviewed when the Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner's report is received.

(d) The Government of the Central Provinces and Berar agreed to hand over charge of the Fund only in October, 1949. The Coal Mines welfare Commissioner, as already stated, was to have taken charge by the 6th December, 1949.

Shri R. L. Malviya: May I know, Sir, what is the amount that remains with the C.P. Government after charge was taken.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have not received that information from the Commissioner yet.

CESS TOWARDS LABOUR WELFARE FUND FROM C. P. AND BERAR

*724. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected so far as cess towards the Labour Welfare Fund from the collieries in the Central Provinces and Berar, the amount actually spent and the welfare activities on which the amount has been spent; and

(b) the future programme of Government for the expenditure of the amount?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The total amount collected upto the 31st March, 1949 as cess for the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund from the collieries in the Central Provinces and Berar is approximately Rs. 17 lakhs. The amount actually spent up to the same date is about Rs. 5½ lakhs. These figures do not include Korea field, the administration of which has not yet been taken by the Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner. The welfare activities on which the amount was spent, were those relating to anti-malaria operations, provision for

ambulance vans, 'X'-Ray unit and mobile cinemas and acquisition of land for the construction of a Regional Hospital, etc.

(b) The future programme of Government includes the following new welfare measures: (i) Construction of a township at Datla consisting of 500 houses. (ii) Construction of a Regional Hospital and Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Datla. (iii) Provision of adequate water supplies for the Pench Valley coal-fields and the Datla township. (iv) Opening of Women's Welfare Centres. (v) Opening of Adult Education Centres.

DISPLACED PERSONS IN ASSAM

*725. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there have been deaths amongst the displaced persons in Sikkhar and Lumding in Assam due to starvation and malnutrition and that there is a large number of half-famished people in these areas?

(b) Is it a fact that the Ramkrishna Mission offered to start relief work in some of the areas if they were given necessary financial assistance?

(c) Has this offer been accepted by the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) There have been no deaths due to the reasons mentioned. Report of one death at Lumding due to starvation was received but the same has not been confirmed by Assam Government.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is for the Assam Government to approve the scheme which has been forwarded to them. In the meantime a sum of Rupees five thousand has been remitted to the Ramkrishna Mission for relief work at Lumding.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

*726. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the reasons why India's delegate to the Human Rights Commission stated at a meeting of that body in June, 1949 that India could not be a signatory to the proposed international covenant on human rights?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not correct that India's delegate stated that India could not be a signatory to the proposed Covenant.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the attention of Government been drawn to an editorial article in the *Hindustan Times* of the 20th June, 1949 in which it was mentioned that India's delegate to the Human Rights Commission was reported to have stated at a meeting of that body that her country could not be a signatory to the International Covenant on Human Rights, if it embodied either the Soviet or the Australian provision guaranteeing right to work to everyone?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir, it has not been drawn.

Shri M. R. Masani: Is it not true, on the contrary, that our representative on the Human Rights Commission has throughout taken a leading and positive part in the evolution of the Covenant?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir. May I point out that what our representative said there was this? First of all, she, as an Honourable Member just now said, took a very important and leading part in this business.

+ Answer to this question laid on the Table, the honourable Minister being absent.

She pointed out that our including in the declaration a large number of very desirable things on which we are completely agreed, but which for financial or other reasons we could not possibly enforce, would give an air of unreality to it. Therefore what she suggested was that there should be two parts: one, which we could enforce immediately and the other, with which we agreed and hope to enforce as soon as we were in a position to do so.

Shri H. V. Kamath: To which specific provisions of the proposed International Covenant on Human Rights did the delegate say India could not agree at present?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no question of her not agreeing. For instance—I am speaking from memory—suppose we agree to the provision that everybody has the right to work, as a matter of fact, it is exceedingly difficult for us, circumstanced as we are, to provide work for everybody in the country.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the Covenant referred to in the question of the Honourable Member is one which involves a right which is of a justiciable nature and therefore could not be given effect to by our Government for financial reasons?

Mr. Speaker: That is an argument.

NON-MUSLIM PATIENTS IN LAHORE MENTAL HOSPITAL

*727. **Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were about 800 Hindu and Sikh indoor patients in the mental hospital at Lahore on the 15th August, 1947;

(b) whether all of them have been evacuated to India, and if so, when;

(c) whether it is a fact that an Inter-Dominion dispute had been going on for the payment of charges for the maintenance of these patients; and

(d) whether it is a fact that about half the number of these patients have died in the Lahore hospital?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) According to the information supplied by the Pakistan Government, the number of non-Muslim patients in mental hospitals in West Pakistan in September, 1949 was 513.

(b) No. Only 32 cured mental patients were evacuated from the mental hospitals at Lahore in February, 1949. They are not included in the figure given under (a).

(c) There has been some discussion about these charges. Recently the Pakistan Minister of Refugees wrote to me that he was issuing necessary instructions for the exchange of these patients.

(d) No. So far as Government are aware only one patient is reported to have died on the 26th January, 1949.

* Answer to this question laid on the Table, the honourable Minister being absent.

THE ABDUCTED WOMEN'S RECOVERY

*728. **Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure on the Abducted Women's Recovery Agency incurred (i) in the financial year 1948-49 and (ii) from 1st April to 30th September, 1949; and

(b) the Budget estimates of anticipated expenditure during the second half of the current financial year?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): (a) The total expenditure on the recovery of abducted women (i) in the financial year 1948-49 is not available; (ii) from 1st April to 30th September, 1949 is Rs. 4,54,000.

(b) The Budget estimate of expected expenditure during the second half of the current financial year is Rs. 3,46,000.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that many social lady workers are working honorarily and thereby contributing to the reduction of expenditure on this work?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: There are a number of social workers who are working honorarily.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know, Sir, whether any abducted women recovery agency operates in Kashmir to recover Hindu girls from Muslim abductors now in the Indian Union?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: There is an organisation in that part of the country which is under our control engaged in recovery work of some sort.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is the Honourable Minister satisfied with the work of that organisation?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Well, fairly satisfactory, in the circumstances.

Shri Upendranath Barman: May we know the number of recoveries effected by that organisation?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I have given full information to the House in connection with the debate on the Bill which is still before it.

IMPORT LICENSES FOR NEWS-PRINT

*729. **Shri B. N. Munavalli:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the number of import licences for news-print issued so far during the year 1949?

(b) What is the value of news-print so far imported during the year 1949 under the said licences?

(c) Do Government intend to follow the same policy in issuing import licences for news-print during the year 1950?

(d) Is it now proposed to grant any concessions to small-consumers who had made firm commitments, backed by Letters of Credit opened before O.G.L. was cancelled on 15th September?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Our licensing policy in regard to imports is framed every six months, in regard to imports of newsprint in the two periods, viz., January-June, and July-December, 1949 it was as follows:

(i) During the January-June, 1949 period, imports of news-print from the soft currency countries were covered by Open General Licence No. XI and XV, and no licences were required for its import. Licences were granted for import from the dollar areas subject to monetary ceilings, the number of licences issued being 44 valued at Rs. 50 lakhs. No licences were granted for import of news-print from any other hard currency countries.

(ii) During the July-December, 1949 period, i.e., the current period, no licences are being granted for import of news-print from the dollar and hard currency countries. In regard to the soft currency countries, Open General Licence No. XV, which allowed imports without licences, was cancelled on 25th August, 1949. Since that date, licences are being granted for import from soft currency countries subject to essentiality and monetary ceilings and also under Open General Licence XV concession licences. 114 licences have so far been issued valued at Rs. 1.13 lakhs, in addition to the licences valued at Rs. 14.69 lakhs, issued under the Open General Licence concessions.

(b) The total value of newsprint imported during the period January to October, 1949 amounted to Rs. 2.97 crores. More up to date figures are not yet available. This represents imports made under Open General Licence and also imports made against licences granted during the July-December, 1948 period. Imports against licences granted during the July-December, 1949 period would not have been substantial as the licences were granted only recently.

(c) The licensing policy for the January-June, 1950 has not yet been finally settled. Imports will however be permitted from soft currency areas only.

(d) Open General Licence No. XV, to which the Honourable Member is referring was cancelled on 25th August, 1949 though shipments under this licence were allowed until the 15th September. Small consumers who had made firm commitments covered by Letters of Credit before the 25th August, 1949, are being granted licences to the full extent of the amount of the Letters of Credit.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: With regard to the reply to part (b), what were the total imports for the corresponding period in the previous year, 1947-48?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have not got the figures here.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Does this amount exceed that amount?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am not in a position to say that.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Does not the Ministry keep an eye on that?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, we do. As I have already stated, the period was mostly covered by the Open General Licence and it was not possible till the period was over and the licensing system was abandoned in favour of a restricted policy to know exactly how much actually came in under the O.G.L.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Arising from the Honourable Minister's reply that licenses for import of newsprint for the period July to December, 1949 were issued only recently, and in view of the fact that in the meantime prices have gone up by at least £5 per ton for which reasons newspapers have not so far been able to book their orders, I want to know whether it is the intention of the Government to extend the period of these licences that have already been issued, up to 1950?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is the intention. I may also add that a meeting of the *ad hoc* Advisory Committee, that is attached to the Commerce Ministry for the purpose of advising us in regard to the newspaper import policy, is being called and it will be held on the 23rd December to consider this and other connected questions.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is being realised that the delay in issuing the licences has adversely affected the news papers and news-print importers and that prices have been rising during the period?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The delay was inevitable because of very many factors including devaluation. I have also this information that many of the news papers carry very large stocks.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know what is the policy in regard to the stocks? Have the Government formulated any policy with regard to the stocks?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact, we are prepared to allow stocks to the extent of four months consumption, for the purposes of ascertaining the quantities for which licence may be granted to an applicant.

OUTPUT OF WOOLLEN MILLS

*730. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to refer to the statement laid on the Table of the House in answer to parts (a) and (b) of my Starred Question, No. 847 asked on the 3rd March, 1949, and state whether the annual output figures shown in the statement require any modification now?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes; in respect of Cawnpore Woollen Mills, Kanpur and Sri Dinesh Mills, Baroda. A revised statement giving the correct figures of annual output of these Woollen Mills is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Name of Mill	Location	Year when established	Paid up capital	Annual output
1	2	3	4	5
Cawnpore Woollen Mills, Kanpur.	U. P.	1876	Branch of British India Corporation (Separate figures for the Woollen Mills not available).	3,900,000 lbs.
Sri Dinesh Mills Ltd., Baroda.	Baroda State	1922	Rs. 20,00,000	1,000,000 lbs.

Lala Raj Kanwar: May I know what is the total number of woollen mills at present operating in the country, what was the number ten years ago, and what would be the number five years hence?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I do not think that question can be asked. Has he any other question?

Lala Raj Kanwar: What is the number of woollen mills operating in the country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Seventeen.

Lala Raj Kanwar: What was the number ten years ago? If the Government are satisfied that the present number of woollen mills is insufficient to meet the requirements of the country, what steps do the Government propose to take?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That would be problematical. Next question.

CLOTH IMPORTED FROM JAPAN

+*731. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 6,00,00,000 yards of cloth imported from Japan by the Government of India have been lying unsold for a long time?

(b) If so, what are the causes therefor?

(c) Is it more costly or less durable compared to other imported cloth?

(d) Was it purchased directly by Government or through some agency?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Eighty million yards of cloth were purchased from Japan of which 23·57 million yards were imported into India. The balance was left there to be sold *ex-Tokyo*. Almost all the Bombay stocks and 21·6 million yards of Japan stocks were sold by November, 1948. Negotiations have since been completed for the sale of the remaining stocks of this cloth.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It was decided in April, 1947 to import this cloth in view of scarcity then prevailing. The prices for the various varieties were little higher than the corresponding varieties of the Indian manufacture.

(d) The cloth was purchased by the Indian Supply Mission on behalf of the Government of India, from the United States Commercial Company, Washington.

TEMPLES AND GURDWARAS IN PAKISTAN

+*732. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of Hindu and Jain Temples and Sikh Gurdwaras in Pakistan?

(b) Where are they located?

(c) What is the value of movable and immovable properties attached to them?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) to (c). Government of India have no authentic record of the exact number of Hindu and Jain Temples and Sikh Gurdwaras in Pakistan, their location and the value of their movable and immovable properties.

MUSLIM REFUGEES IN JULLUNDUR CAMP

+*733. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan have declined to receive Muslim refugees of Jullundur camp; and

(b) if so, what are the alternative arrangements contemplated by Government in this respect?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) For some months past the Deputy High Commissioner for Pakistan in India at Jullundur had been refusing facilities for evacuation to Muslims who came to the Jullundur transit camp with a view to proceeding to Pakistan.

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

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the honourable Minister being absent.

(b) According to the latest information, a little over 2,000 of the original 4,000 inmates of the camp have since been evacuated to Pakistan. About 800 have been sent away to their homes in India. There are about 1,100 persons now in the camp, who are likely to be evacuated to Pakistan. The question of the Government of India making alternative arrangements does not arise.

VIZAGAPATAM SHIP-BUILDING YARD

*734. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what is the capacity of the Vizagapatam Ship-building Yard to construct ships?

(b) How many berths (Dry docks) are there in the yard for the simultaneous construction of several ships?

(c) How much capital has so far been invested in this industry and what help have Government given to the industry?

(d) How many ships have so far been launched and what is their total tonnage?

(e) What is the estimated tonnage that India needs?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: With your permission, Sir, I will answer this and the next question together.

(a) and (b). The lay-out of the factory provides for eight slipways of which three have been completed. In two of these three slipways, ships of 16,000 tons can be built, while the capacity of the third is 14,000 tons. In other words, three ships can be constructed simultaneously.

(c) About Rs. 4 crores. Government have given all possible assistance in the procurement of capital goods and raw materials.

(d) Four ships with a total tonnage of 24,000 tons.

(e) No detailed estimate has been made, but it seems clear that India will need more than one modern ship-building yard.

FUTURE OF VIZAGAPATAM SHIP-BUILDING YARD

*735. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that with the completion of the present programme in action, there would be no more work for the workers in the docks in Vizagapatam Ship-building Yard?

(b) How many workers would then be unemployed?

(c) Have the workers and the Company made any representation in this regard?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take in order to maintain production and assure employment to workers?

(e) Is it a fact that Government are considering the possibility of transferring the ship-building work now being done at Vizagapatam to other centres and abandoning ship-building in Vizagapatam?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) to (d). A decision whether Government should acquire the Vizagapatam Shipyard or not is difficult to take

until Government have a clearer picture of the resources available for such a purpose. Meanwhile in order to prevent the Yard from closing down, Government are thinking of providing work sufficient to enable the continued employment of a majority of the workers. But even then some measure of retrenchment will, I am afraid, be unavoidable. A final decision on this matter is expected to be reached before the end of this month.

(e) No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that the workers' organisation has made representations stating that certain economies could be made in the over-head expenses and also in the making of the constructions, if any of their suggestions were accepted?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They have given us a number of representations where all sorts of suggestions have been made. It is very difficult to express any opinion thereon.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that there was a conference between the workers' representatives and the company's representatives in the presence of an officer sent by the Government of India recently? What were the results of that conference?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No representative of the Government was present at the conference. That was a discussion between the company and the workers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the results of this discussion been sent to the Government and have the Government had an opportunity of examining those results?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I said, we expect to arrive at a final decision within the next few days.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, that this question whether the Government should take over this shipyard or not, has been pending with the Government for more than a year?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes; the matter has been pending for some time.

Mr. Speaker: The question Hour is over:

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, what will happen to the Starred questions if the Honourable Minister has failed to arrive during the Question Hour?

Mr. Speaker: The questions will go in as unstarred.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWER

DISPLACED PERSONS FROM EAST BENGAL

*736. **Lala Achint Ram:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether there are any displaced persons who have come from East Bengal and want to go back there?

(b) How many of them have actually gone back and re-settled?

(c) Have Government received reports of any difficulties which stand in the way of their re-settlement there?

(d) If there are any difficulties, what steps are Government taking to have them removed?

(e) What is the response of the Pakistan Government in this matter?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have not so far had any figures in this connection.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). The question of restoring conditions which will induce these people to go back to East Pakistan has been discussed at more than one Inter-Dominion Conference and machinery, such as fortnightly meetings of the Chief Secretaries of the two Provinces have been devised.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TWO-NATION THEORY

25. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state if he said in London on 12th November, 1949 that India did not accept the two-nation theory, otherwise there were thirty five million Muslims in India who could be held to be aliens?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes.

PLOTS FOR DISPLACED PERSONS

26. Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of plots and the area of each class of plot set apart by the Government for allotment to displaced persons in the Shadipurkham Refugee Rehabilitation Scheme, Delhi;

(b) the number of cases in respect of each class of plot out of those referred to in part (a) above, where allotments have been recommended by the Allotment Committee; and

(c) the number of cases out of those referred to in part (b) above, where allotments have since been made and the number of cases awaiting allotment and the reasons for the delay, if any?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:

(a)	Area.	Number.
(i)	Plots for houses. .. 30' x 60'	1220
(ii)	Bungalow plots. .. 60' x 120'	64

So far 1,284 plots have been allotted. The plots are of two sizes 30' x 60' and 60' x 120'.

(b) (i) 2,699.

(ii) Bungalow plots are allotted by inviting tenders from displaced persons.

(c) (i) 830 plots have been allotted.

(ii) About 20 bungalow plots have been allotted by sale.

In the original scheme about 3,000 plots for houses were expected to be made available. Later on a substantial portion of this area which was under the Ministries of Agriculture and Defence could not be transferred; and as such only 1,726 plots are expected to be available. Out of these, houses have been constructed by this Ministry on 166 plots. Another 400 plots have been earmarked for construction of tenements. The remaining are in the course of allotment. There has been no delay in allotment of plots though actual possession thereof may, in some cases, have had to await completion of development, etc.

GARDEN TOOLS

27. { Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:
Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:

Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that garden tools are scarce in the country at present; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make provision for the manufacture of garden tools in this country and relax the control on the import of the articles.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CEREMONY TO MARK THE COMMENCEMENT OF NEW CONSTITUTION

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any ceremony will be held in the very near future to mark the commencement of the New Constitution and the inauguration of the Indian Republic;

(b) if so, on what date; and

(c) whether the details of the ceremony have been finalised?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I would have hoped that the Honourable Member was aware that a certain date has been fixed by our Constitution for the inauguration of the Republic, and that is, January 26th.

(a) to (c). It is proposed to have certain formal ceremonies on the 26th and 27th January, 1950 on the occasion of the inauguration of the Republic of India. These two days will be observed as holidays. Certain details about these ceremonies are given in a statement which has been placed on the Table of the House.

Programme for the 26th and 27th January, 1950.

On the morning of the 26th January, 1950, at about 9.30 or 10 A.M. the President will take the Oath of Office in the Durbar Hall of the Government House. A salute of 31 guns will be fired and the Presidential flag unfurled over the Government House. The President will then administer the Oath to the Members of the Cabinet. Heads of Missions of Foreign countries resident in Delhi and Members of the Constituent Assembly and other important members of the public will be invited to this ceremony.

In the afternoon the President will drive in State, escorted by his Bodyguard, from the Government House to the Irwin Stadium where he will hoist the national flag and take the salute at a march past of selected detachments of the Armed Forces representing all arms. Cabinet Ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of organisations of Labour, peasantry, Harijans etc. will be invited to take part in this function.

At night the President will give a State Banquet at the Government House.

On the 27th January, the President will give a Reception to which as many members of the general public as possible will be invited.

January 26th and 27th will be declared public holidays.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A committee of the representatives of Home, Defence and External Affairs Ministries and of the Government House is being asked to work out further details of the ceremonies under the general direction of the Cabinet.

It is expected that the Governments of Provinces, States Unions etc. will make similar arrangements. So far as the collaboration of the military authorities in the various places is concerned the Ministry of Defence will issue appropriate instructions.

It is the Government's intention that the ceremony should be marked by dignity and solemnity but should be as simple as possible keeping in view the need for economy.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Who will proclaim the republic of India? Will it be the Constituent Assembly or the Government?

Mr. Speaker: It is no use going into those details.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has a Committee been constituted to go into the details of the ceremony?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir, a committee has been formed.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Who are the members of the Committee?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is an official Committee which, I take it, consults others too.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Who are the members?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I don't know their names.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have Government decided as to whether a ceremony should or should not be held in the Red Fort and at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi on that day?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether Government has received any representation from the South stating that the date fixed, viz., 26th January, is an inauspicious date?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have hundreds of letters been received by the Prime Minister and the President of the Constituent Assembly suggesting that as the 26th January happens to be an inauspicious date, the previous day or the night of the 26th might be fixed for the ceremony.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government does not consult the stars in drawing up its programmes.

Mr. Speaker: We will proceed to the next question.

STOPPAGE OF PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO JUDGES AND MAGISTRATES IN CHANDERNAGORE

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the French Government at Pondicherry has suddenly stopped payment of salaries to Judges and magistrates in Chandernagore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the machinery of Law, Order and Justice is consequently on the verge of breakdown in Chandernagore; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken up, or propose to take up, the matter with the French Government?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government understand that after the withdrawal of South Indian officers serving in Judicial Departments the Pondicherry authorities have, without any previous reference to the Administrative Council stopped the payment of Judges and Magistrate's salaries. They have also, it is said, stopped all payments out of the fund at the credit of the Chandernagore administration held in Pondicherry.

(b) It has come to the notice of Government that in this situation the Administrative Council of Chandernagore is finding it most difficult to run the administration.

(c) The matter has been taken up with the French Embassy in India.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Prime Minister received telegrams and letters from the President, Council D'Administration in Chandernagore asking for Government intervention in this matter?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have recollection that some message did come.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that the date for the referendum with regard to other French Settlements in India has not yet been fixed?

Mr. Speaker: Does not arise.

INDIAN DELEGATION AT INAUGURATION OF INDONESIAN REPUBLIC

Mr. Hossain Imam: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister kindly state whether any delegation is being sent to Indonesia on the occasion of their Independence Day, i.e., the 27th December?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir, Government are deputing the Health Minister Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, to represent the Government of India at the inauguration of the Republic of the United States of Indonesia.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday, 20th December, 1949.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

CLOTH SMUGGLING

***737. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply to my Starred Question No. 80 asked on the 11th August 1948 and state whether the cloth and yarn seized while being smuggled across the East Punjab Border have since been disposed of?

(b) What is the total amount realised from the disposal of smuggled cloth and yarn?

(c) What is the quantity and total price of cloth and yarn seized on the border of East Bengal and West Bengal?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Out of the total quantity of cloth seized 81,606 yards have been released to the parties after departmental adjudication, 21,128 yards have been disposed of by public auction, 11,802 yards are awaiting auction, and 1,728 yards are yet in police custody pending prosecutions. 475.5 lbs. of yarn have also been auctioned.

(b) Rs. 14,754 and Rs. 2,292 from cloth and yarn respectively have since been realised by public auction of the above quantity.

(c) The total quantity of cloth and yarn attempted to be smuggled and seized on the border of West and East Bengal from March 1948 to September 1949 was 20,49,000 yards and 1,20,000 lbs. respectively. The value thereof respectively was Rs. 17,66,000 and Rs. 5,49,000.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Honourable Minister stated that only Rs. 14,000 and odd were realised from the public auction and the rest were not realised? I have not understood the answer properly, Sir. My question is what is the total amount realised from the disposal of smuggled cloth and yarn and the figure that the Honourable Minister has given is 20,49,000 yards up-to-date. What is the actual realization that has come to the credit of the Government from the smuggled yarn?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Is the Honourable Member referring to the quantities smuggled at the Bengal border or the Punjab border?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I refer to East Punjab border and I have mentioned it in my question.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There 21,128 yards were actually auctioned.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I want the total amount instead of yards.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Against that Rs. 14,754 were realised.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: My question is this: The Honourable Minister last time, in answer to my question stated (to which I have made a reference) that Rs. 10,53,000 worth of cloth was smuggled and as regards realization he said that it was not possible to state it exactly. I want to know out of this Rs. 10,53,000 how much has been realised by Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware to what this figure of 10 lakhs refers, but as far as I am concerned, the point that this question raises is: What is the total yardage which has been smuggled and seized on the Punjab frontier? I have given a figure of about 81,000 yards. Out of that a large quantity has been released to the parties after adjudication. Of the rest nearly 32,000 or 33,000 yards are still with the authorities, 21,000 yards have been confiscated and auctioned. For that the realization is Rs. 14,754.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether it is a fact that cloth being smuggled by one of the air liners was caught recently in East Punjab?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware, Sir.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I would repeat my question. The Honourable Minister stated last time.....

Mr. Speaker: It is no use repeating. It is not clear to him.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The total value of cloth and yarn smuggled across the borders of Western and Eastern Pakistan amounts to Rs. 10,53,000. Then he says that the cloth and yarn which have been smuggled and seized were kept in the custody of the customs authorities pending adjudication of the cases. What I want to know is that out of the goods worth Rs. 10,53,000 in the custody of the Customs, how much amount has been realised?

Mr. Speaker: The answer is very clear, I think.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it only Rs. 14,000?

Mr. Speaker: It may be that out of the goods in custody only Rs. 21,000 and odd yards were disposed of by forfeiture. That is a clear inference from it.

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: May I ask whether smuggled cloth was seized on Rajasthan and Pakistan borders as well?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have no information.

Shri Upendranath Barman: Can the Honourable Minister give an idea of the number of big scale smugglers as compared to small-scale smugglers or whether it is only the small scale smugglers that have been detected?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It all depends where you draw the line between the big and small ones.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What was the reason for returning this large quantity, may I know, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter for inference. The matter was, pending adjudication, while in the custody of the Customs authorities. We do not know what the adjudication orders were.

ASSETS OF FOREIGNERS

***738. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total assets, properties etc., belonging to foreign nationals in India; and

(b) the nature of such assets and the total amount of income-tax recovered from these assets during the last three years year by year?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) As the Honourable Member is aware a census of the foreign assets and liabilities of India is in the course of compilation and preliminary figures are likely to be available early in 1950.

(b) It is not possible to give the details asked for, as the information is not available from existing income-tax records.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Since the announcement by the Prime Minister last April about the industrial and economic policy of the Government, and especially the invitation to foreign capital in this country, have any foreign investments been made in this country?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: May I suggest that it does not arise out of this question?

CREDIT TO BURMA GOVERNMENT

***739. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that credit facilities have been given to Burma Government against the purchase of rice by us?

(b) If so, what is the credit given and when is the shipment of rice expected to reach India towards this credit?

(c) Will any interest be charged on this credit until the shipment actually arrives in India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I want to know whether any financial facilities have been given to the Burma Government. Apart from the giving of actual loans, have any facilities been given?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We do not give any credit facilities because payment is really made against documents. The Reserve Bank gives remittance facilities in respect of the funds that are to be moved from India to Burma at the beginning of the purchasing season. Similarly, the Burma Government gives repatriation facilities for the amount that has got to come back at the end of the season.

HYDERABAD GOLD

***740. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state what is the total weight of Hyderabad gold sold by the Reserve Bank of India and the rate at which it was sold and what was the total amount realised from the sale?

(b) What is the total quantity of gold lying with the Hyderabad State?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The total quantity of gold sold up to the period ended the 4th November, 1949, was 70,500 tolas valued at Rs. 80,77,969, on an average price of Rs. 114/9/3. per tola.

(b) I am not in a position to give this information.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the total amount, Sir, in answer to the first question?

Mr. Speaker: Rs. 80 lakhs and odd.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the entire proceeds of the sale is transmitted to the Nizam's Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, the gold really is the personal property of His Exalted Highness and is transmitted to him.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I also ask, Sir, whether there is any possibility of further sales of gold being made?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have not the slightest information.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How much of this amount has been credited to the Nizam of Hyderabad?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The whole amount.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Was the total amount the property of the Nizam?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes; that is so.

CANCER

*741. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some research on treatment of Cancer has been planned by the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital in Bombay?

(b) If so, is this treatment successful?

(c) What is the percentage of cured cases from this treatment?

(d) Is there any other organisation which is doing research on treatment of Cancer?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes. The Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay has been carrying out researches into the incidence and causation of the different types of cancer for the last eight years.

(b) and (c). As these researches have so far not revealed any information that can be utilized for the purpose of improving the treatment of cancer the question of the success or otherwise of the treatment referred to by the Honourable Member does not arise. Surgery, deep X-ray and radium therapy therefore still remain the recognised methods of treating cancer. The percentage of cure with these recognised methods varies with the type of cancer and the stage at which the treatment is commenced. In early cases given adequate initial and follow-up treatment the percentage of cure can be expected to be well over 90 per cent.

(d) Some of the large provincial hospitals particularly in Calcutta, Madras and Patna are well equipped to undertake both research and treatment of cancer. Detailed information regarding the research work carried out at these institutions is still awaited and will be placed before the House on receipt.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the total number of people who have to be treated for malignant diseases in India and have any of them been sent to Switzerland?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would have to have notice of that question.

Shrimati Hansa Mehta: Have Government any idea of helping the Institution to develop?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes. This Institute is doing extremely good work. It is one of those Institutes that have been recommended for upgrading by the Upgrading Committee, which has recently submitted its report. If their recommendations are accepted in the current year this Hospital would receive a grant of three lakhs and in the following year, according to the desire of the trustees, the Centre may take over the research side of the Institution.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any machinery for co-ordination of research on Cancer and its treatment conducted in our country with the research conducted in other countries on the subject?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Naturally all the research that is done in this country and those who are carrying on research are in close touch with the development of research in other countries.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it through the World Health Organisation or any other machinery?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The medical men themselves keep in close touch.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Individually or through Government?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

TECHNICAL MANPOWER

†*742. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the extent of shortage of technical personnel in the principal industries in the country?

(b) Have Government any plan to train students so as to make the country self-sufficient as far as scientific and technical manpower is concerned?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) The available information indicates that the main shortage is of (i) Designers, and (ii) Production Engineers.

There is also considerable shortage of artisans and craftsmen. Forty-eight foreign technicians have been employed in the various industries and contracts for the services of 17 more have been concluded. This would also point towards a shortage of highly qualified and skilled technical personnel.

(b) To meet the demand for highly qualified technical personnel, steps have already been initiated to establish without delay the Eastern Higher Technical Institution at Hijli, 70 miles from Calcutta. This institution is expected to start functioning in August 1950 and to begin with, will provide post-graduate courses in certain subjects. Full details of the scope and size of this institution were given by me in reply to Starred Question No. 237 on the 2nd December 1949. On the recommendations of the All India Council for Technical Education, Government has sanctioned a scheme for giving financial aid to well-established non-government engineering and technological institutions in the country for their improvement and expansion.

To meet the requirements for artisans and craftsmen, Government has instituted schemes for the training of demobilised services personnel, which have

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

recently been extended to cover displaced persons from Pakistan. Government has now decided to introduce in place of the temporary schemes, a scheme for the training of adult civilians under which training facilities will be available for 10,000 persons.

The Education Ministry are fully aware of the fact that the technical and scientific education in the country should receive as much encouragement from Government as possible. But, the present financial stringency has affected all our educational schemes and the fear is that the technical and scientific education schemes may also not remain unaffected.

ENTERTAINMENTS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

*743. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred by various Ministries for official and unofficial entertainments at Government House from 10th April, 1948 to 31st December, 1948 and from 1st January, 1949 upto date?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: From April, 1948 to end of December, 1948, Rs. 6,121/15/0; From January, 1949, to date Rs. 9,794/3/6. Total Rs. 15,916/2/6.

DOCUMENTARY AND EDUCATIONAL FILMS

*744. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new films, including documentary and educational films by Government, produced in the Indian Union after Independence; and

(b) the total length of these newly-produced films?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

R. S. S. CONVICTS

*745. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether there are any R.S.S. Satyagraha convicts still in prison and if so, what is their number?

(b) What properties, belonging to the R.S.S. or its members, were taken over by Government during the R.S.S. Satyagraha Movement days?

(c) Have they all been restored to their rightful owners?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) None.

(b) (i) Bharat Mudranalaya Press, Faiz Bazar, Delhi, (ii) Library of the R.S.S. situated in Naya Bazar, Delhi and (iii) Vidya Dhar Press situated at Jungle Wali Masjid, Delhi.

(c) Yes.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether Government has paid any compensation for any damage to these properties that were taken under Government custody?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No.

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether any Government servants were victimised for having taken part in the R.S.S. Movement?

Mr. Speaker: That assumes too much; I cannot permit that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Among those R.S.S. Satyagraha convicts, were there any Government servants?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There were some Government servants who were convicted.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is their number?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot give the number.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have any damages been claimed?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No claims.

TRAINED NURSES

*746. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly salary and Dearness Allowance of trained nurses employed in tuberculosis and infectious diseases hospitals under Government; and

(b) whether any extra protection is given to these nurses in consideration of their exposure to these diseases?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). The rates of salary and allowances vary from Province to Province. A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 1.)

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether these nurses serving in tuberculosis and infectious diseases hospitals get any other extra allowances in consideration of their exposure to these infectious diseases?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: From the statement that has been laid on the Table of the House, it will be seen that in one or two places, they are given an extra allowance. In every hospital where the nurses are exposed to infectious diseases, they are screened every now and again and due precautions are taken to protect them. Of course, against tuberculosis, B.C.G. is now going to play a definite part.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether there is any provident fund or pension for these nurses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Provident Fund, I believe, exists everywhere for nurses.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether there has been any case of attack of T.B. or any other infectious diseases to these nurses during their service in these hospitals?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I could not tell you.

NUMBER OF DEATHS DUE TO MALARIA, T. B. AND SMALL-POX

†*747. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the number of deaths in 1948-49 due to (i) Malaria, (ii) T.B. and (iii) Small-pox?

(b) What additional steps have been taken during the year 1948-49 to improve the health of the people?

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

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. I may mention, however, that any figures available to us are nebulous in view of the fact that we have neither enough medical personnel to diagnose diseases nor adequate machinery for the collection of statistics.

STATEMENT

Number of deaths during the year 1947 due to Malaria, T.B. and Small-pox and the steps taken during the year 1948-49 to improve the health of the people.

The figures for 1948-49 are not yet available.

The following figures represent the recorded deaths from Malaria, Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Small-pox in the provinces of the Indian union during the year 1947:

Malaria—1,066,269.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—47,624.

Small-pox—24,507.

The above figures for malaria and pulmonary tuberculosis do not include particulars from the provinces of Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Madras and Ajmer-Merwara, as in these provinces figures are recorded in respect of municipal towns only.

Owing to the lack of facilities for the proper diagnosis of the cause of death in view of the absence of adequate medical services, the reported figures are not complete. Nor can it be claimed that deaths placed under these categories were in every case due to those causes.

Health is a provincial subject and the main responsibility for promoting measures for the control of these diseases rests on the provinces. The Central Government has, however, been giving them such assistance as is possible, partly through half grants for approved health development programmes and partly by assistance in the development in the provinces of schemes towards which the World Health Organisation and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund are, in addition to the Government of India, offering substantial help. Three malaria control teams provided by the World Health Organisation are working in the Terai area in the United Provinces, Jeypore Hill Tracts in Orissa and in Malnad in Mysore and a fourth one will start work shortly in Ernad in the Madras Province. A B.C.G. Vaccination programme against tuberculosis drawn up in collaboration with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the Scandinavian Red Cross has been in operation in different parts of the country for over fifteen months, which include the United States of Travancore and Cochin, Madanapalle and Madras City in the Province of Madras, Bombay and Baroda in the Province of Bombay, Delhi, Amritsar, Lucknow and Calcutta. It is expected that with further assistance from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, this programme of B.C.G. Vaccination will be expanded considerably in 1950.

A demonstration team for the control of venereal diseases provided by the World Health Organisation is working in Himachal Pradesh with its headquarters in Simla and a Maternity and Child Welfare Demonstration team is shortly starting preliminary work in the province of Delhi. A group of experts from the World Health Organisation and the Office Internationale de Hygiene Publique has recently visited India to study, with our cholera research workers, the problem of control of cholera in this country.

PROPAGATION OF HINDI

†*748. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the Universities where education is imparted through the medium of regional language or Hindi?

(b) What steps are being taken for the propagation of Hindi?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) and (b). A statement, showing the media of instruction at various Universities and steps taken by them for facilities of acquiring mastery over Hindi, is laid on the Table. (See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 2.)

• Regarding the teaching of Hindi in schools, the Government of India have accepted in principle, the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of

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

Education, made at its 15th meeting held in January, 1949, that the teaching of Federal Language (Hindi) should be started at the end of the Junior Basic stage and should be compulsory throughout the pre-Secondary stage but may be optional thereafter as long as English is the medium of instruction at the University stage. The Provincial and State Governments as well as the Central Administrations have been requested to implement the above recommendation.

CHEAP RADIO SETS

†*749. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state if it is a fact that a new radio set costing only about Rs. 30 has been invented in India, and if so, when are such sets likely to be available in the market?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: An Indian firm has under consideration proposals for the production of battery operated sets costing Rs. 30 each. So far as Government are aware, no such set has yet been produced.

TELEVISION IN INDIA

†*750. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state what progress has been made in the television department and when is it going to function?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: There is no television department.

BROADCASTING OF THE GITA AND THE RAMAYANA

†*751. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state if it is a fact that instructions have been issued not to broadcast the Gita and the Ramayana, and if so, what are the reasons prompting such a decision?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: The reply is in the negative.

Indian Information

*752. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the number of copies of *Indian Information* and its Hindi and Urdu versions published by the Information Department; and

(b) the number of copies of the above supplied free of cost to the various Ministries of Government, public institutions, and private individuals and the number of copies sold?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Nil; as all the three journals have been discontinued from 1st July, 1949.

(b) Does not arise.

Lala Raj Kanwar: What are the reasons for discontinuing publication of the *Indian Information*?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: As it was found that the material which was being printed was merely a collection of the material already published, as a measure of economy it was thought necessary to stop it.

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

Lala Raj Kanwar: Was this done as a measure of economy?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Yes.

DEVOTIONAL SONGS BY A.I.R.

***753. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the exact or approximate length of time now allotted to the singing of devotional songs or *Bhajans* as part of the daily or weekly programme of the A.I.R., and

(b) whether a longer time can be assigned for the singing of *Bhajans* in the time-table of the A.I.R.?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Approximately 5½ hours per day, on an average.

(b) The time now assigned for this purpose is considered adequate.

Lala Raj Kanwar: May I know the reply to part (b)?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: The time now assigned for this purpose is considered adequate.

Lala Raj Kanwar: May I know whether it is a fact that a good deal of time in connection with the daily programmes of the A.I.R. is devoted to love songs or songs depicting love scenes which are calculated to demoralise . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think the Honourable Member may get this information by a private talk with the Minister.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know what efforts are made to improve these *Bhajan* programmes and devotional songs?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: There is a continuous attempt being made to improve them.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I heard the Honourable Minister say that approximately 5½ hours per day were devoted to devotional songs. What is the time of the day allotted for these devotional songs? I have never heard any such thing.

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: If the *Listener* is read and followed, the Honourable Member will get full information.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is it a fact that *Gita* and *Ramayana Kathas* have been discontinued and if so, why?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does it or does it not arise, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: *Gita* is devotional scripture, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of interpretation. *Gita* is philosophy. The Honourable member knows it.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that *Ramayana* was also being recited previously among the devotional songs and it has been stopped now?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: It has not been stopped but it was not a part of devotional songs.

INDIA OFFICE LIBRARY

***754. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the books, records, maps, manuscripts etc., maintained in the Library of India Office, London, have now been brought back to India and made available for National use; and

(b) if not, when the proposal is likely to materialise?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government of India are in correspondence with the Indian High Commissioner in London in this matter and cannot say exactly when the question will be finally decided.

Lala Raj Kanwar: What is the cause of delay in bringing back these books?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I have already said that the matter is under correspondence with the High Commissioner.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the last information received from the High Commissioner on the question?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I would like to have notice.

Lala Raj Kanwar: Will any of these books be made over to Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Government is not in a position to say what exactly will be the position.

Lala Raj Kanwar: Has Pakistan put forward any claim?

STUDENTS TO U.S.A.

***755. Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government have taken steps to enhance as a result of devaluation the amount of Government Scholarship to students sent to United States of America for studies? If not, why not?

(b) What is the total amount involved?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) The amount of Government scholarship for students sent for advanced studies to U.S.A. under the Overseas Scholarships Scheme is fixed in terms of dollars. Scholars are, therefore, not affected by the devaluation of the Rupee and the question of enhancement of stipend does not arise.

(b) The total additional rupee expenditure to Government is about 2 lakhs and 40 thousand for giving the students the same rate of stipend in dollars.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: What is the amount of dollar now granted to students in U.S.A.? I want to know individually.

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The total figure I have got but I cannot say what are the individual figures.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: Has it been recently decreased from 2,500 to something below?

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Mr. Speaker: He has no information.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether he is aware that a large number of students have gone to U.S.A. who bear their own expense and they have been hardly hit by this devaluation of the rupee? Do Government propose to give any relief to them?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: We have no information about that and if the matter is brought to the notice of Government, we will consider it.

Shri S. Nagappa: The Honourable Minister gave some amount. May I know whether it is for the whole term or per annum?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Annual expenditure.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are our scholars studying mostly in sterling area countries or dollar areas?

Mr. Speaker: Does not arise.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Have Government received any representation from students who are living at their own expense in America about giving relief to them and if so, what is the number of such representations?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I have no information.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Why is the Minister absent?

Mr. Speaker: For reasons best known to him.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: May I know whether the scholarship given to them is sufficient to meet their expenses?

CONSUMER GOODS

***756. Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to combat rise of prices of various consumers' goods due to devaluation?

(b) Do Government propose to give any concession to the low-paid employees who cannot afford to pay high prices for the articles?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) I would invite the attention of Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Starred Question No. 388 on the 7th December, 1949.

(b) Dearness allowance is already being paid to the low-paid staff and the steps that are being taken by Government to effect a reduction in the retail prices of essential commodities will benefit all sections of the community.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: Have Government received any complaint from any quarter against the sellers that they are selling consumer goods at very high prices?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have seen various complaints in the press but I have not received any complaint.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: Have Government held any enquiry?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The matter is under constant enquiry.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Has there been any decrease in prices of consumer goods owing to measures taken recently by Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I gave a pretty exhaustive statement based on such information as I have given in reply to a similar question last week.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: May I know what is the result of the constant enquiry?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The result is entirely healthy.

REGIMENTAL CENTRES

***757. Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of regimental centres existing in India and their places?

(b) Are they evenly distributed in the country?

(c) What is the criterion for fixing or choosing the places?

(d) Do Government propose to increase the regimental centres or regroup the present ones to facilitate recruitment?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 3.)

(c) Availability of accommodation and possibility of providing maximum opportunities to people of particular areas for which the centres cater are the factors taken into consideration in selecting sites for the establishment of such centres.

(d) No, not at present.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Have any representations been made to the Defence Ministry for the readjustment of existing training centres?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not seen any representation.

Shri Ar. Bahadur Gurung: In view of the fact that some regimental centres are quite close to Pakistan, may I know whether Government propose to remove them?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: One of the considerations in locating these regiments there is that they should be away from the frontier and with regard to those regiments which are near the frontier, steps will be taken at some later date to remove them to the interior.

CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENT OF ORISSA STATES

***758. Shri Yudhisthir Mishra:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) when the Central Excise Department of Orissa States was taken over by the Government of India?

(b) whether the staff of the Central Excise of the Orissa States are getting their pay according to the scale prescribed by the State Governments;

(c) whether any final decision has been arrived at by Government regarding the absorption of the Central Excise employees of the Orissa States and revision of their scales and grades of pay?

(d) whether any annual increment is allowed to them during the interim period; and

(e) whether they are allowed any privilege leave earned during the State-regime?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The responsibility for Central Excise administration in the Orissa merged and integrated States was assumed with effect from the 1st May 1948. The actual taking over was effected on various dates in May 1948. The Central Excise administration of Mayurbhanj State was taken over on the 1st January, 1949.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) and (e). Yes.

Shri Yudhisthir Mishra: May I know why there is discrimination between the employees of these States and the employees of Central Government as far as pay and emoluments are concerned?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The position is that in order to carry on the central administration of excise in the States which have been taken over we are now considering the extent of staff that the Central Government should employ in respect of this administration. When that has been settled, a further question arises as to who exactly out of the people now in the State services, should be taken over by the Central Government to fill these posts. The people who are taken over by the Central Government will of course be paid on the same scale as in other Central Government services.

Shri Yudhisthir Mishra: Do the Government propose to absorb the employees of the States in the Central Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We can take over only such number as we can usefully employ. As far as the rest is concerned, what we propose to do is to ask the Provincial Government to absorb them in the various services working under them and my own impression today is that it would be possible for the rest of the employees to be absorbed by the Provincial Government.

Shri Yudhisthir Mishra: Are the Government aware that the Dearness Allowances granted to employees in the Department in the States were subsequently withdrawn and these employees have been asked to refund the amount that was drawn by them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware of that particular incident but the principle on which we are working is that the State employees who are not to be taken over by the Central Government will remain in the State Service on the State scale of salaries until a decision is made by the Provincial Government as to whether they can employ them.

ORISSA STATES (INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT)

***759. Shri Yudhisthir Mishra:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state as to when the Government of India propose to take over the administration of the Income-tax Department of the Orissa States?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Income-tax administration of the 24 Orissa States has been taken over by the Central Government, with effect from the 26th August 1949.

Shri Yudhisthir Mishra: May I know whether all the employees of the Income-tax Department in the States have been absorbed by the Central Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, the problem is almost exactly the same as in respect of the Central Excise staff.

Shri Yudhisthir Mishra: How do Government propose to provide for those who are not absorbed by the Central Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We propose to ask the Provincial Government to see if they can absorb the rest of the employees and if they are not able to absorb the rest of them, a further question will arise. That, of course, is at present a hypothetical question.

Shri Yudhisthir Mishra: May I know whether the Government is prepared to give an assurance that those who are not employed by the Central Government will not remain unemployed?

Mr. Speaker: It will be problematical at this stage.

BANNED NEWSPAPERS

***760. Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names of Indian newspapers and periodicals whose entry has been banned in Pakistan by the Government of Pakistan?

(b) What are the names of Pakistan newspapers and periodicals whose entry has been banned in India by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

List of Indian Newspapers and Periodicals whose entry has been banned in East and West Pakistan by the Government of Pakistan.

S. No.	Name	Place of issue
EASTERN PAKISTAN		
1.	Hindustan Standard	Calcutta
2.	Nation	Calcutta
3.	Anand Bazar Patrika	Calcutta
4.	Swaraj	Calcutta
5.	Raushni	Calcutta
6.	Janta	New Delhi
7.	Saptaha	Calcutta
8.	Rail Mazdur	Calcutta
9.	Ittehad	Calcutta
10.	Hindustan Times	New Delhi
11.	Mandirah	Calcutta
WESTERN PAKISTAN		
1.	Hindustan Times	New Delhi
2.	Milap	New Delhi
3.	Partap	New Delhi
4.	Parbhat	New Delhi
5.	Ajit	Amritsar
6.	Blitz (Periodical)	Bombay

List of Pakistan Newspapers whose entry has been banned in India by the Government of India.

S. No.	Name	Place of issue
1.	Anjam	Karachi
2.	Jang	Karachi
3.	Musalmán	Karachi
4.	Jadid-e-Nizam	Karachi
5.	Zamindar	Lahore
6.	Khan	Lahore
7.	Al-Islah	Lahore

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: In which languages were those banned papers printed?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well, they were in different languages, English, Urdu, Hindi and various other languages.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: What are the main grounds for banning these papers?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: So far as the ban imposed by Pakistan Government is concerned, they must know the reasons for the ban; I do not know. So far as the Indian Government is concerned, the Government of India consider that the papers banned have been carrying on a campaign of disruption and disaffection.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Were any Pakistan newspapers found in the possession of any persons in India in large numbers and if so, what action has been taken for their confiscation?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No action has been taken as they have not been found in such large numbers.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the two Inter-Dominion Conferences held in Karachi and Delhi have made any difference in the tone of the Pakistan press vis-a-vis India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well, whether there is any difference in the tone of Pakistan papers or not, it is difficult for me to say.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Does the Honourable Minister consider that it has been a waste of time and money to have had these conferences?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know whether this matter relating to the ban on newspapers and its infringement on either side was raised at Government level at any of the Inter-Dominion Conferences held in the recent past?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That question may be addressed to the Honourable Minister who deals with these questions.

Shri R. K. Sidhya: May I know, Sir, whether the *Hindustan Times* has been banned by the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether Government have any proposal or plan to deal with the papers in India that are showing a pro-Pakistan policy?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No special plan for them.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the *Statesman* published some advertisements of the so-called Azad Kashmir . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the number of newspapers banned by Pakistan and what is the number banned by India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The number banned by Pakistan is; in Eastern Pakistan 11, Western Pakistan 6. In India, the number of papers banned from Pakistan is 7.

REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

***761. Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state how much amount of money has been placed at the disposal of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration since its inception?

(b) How much amount has been disbursed up till now by the Administration?

(c) What are the highest and lowest amounts sanctioned to an individual or to a group of individuals?

(d) How many displaced persons have so far received help from the Administration?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Rs. 1.4 crores has so far been drawn by the Administration.

(b) About 1.24 crores.

(c) Rs. one lakh and Rs. 5,500.

(d) 2,868 loans have been sanctioned, but the number of displaced persons who indirectly receive help is much larger as the members of the family and displaced individuals working in the industries and business set up with these loans naturally derive benefit out of these loans.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Do Government contemplate preparing a detailed report on the working of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration, zone and subject-wise, and supplying copies of the same to the Members of this House?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will consider it.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Has any sum been sanctioned for cottage industries?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As the Honourable Member knows, the amounts applied for and which are below Rs. 5,000 are not considered by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration, but under a small loans scheme which is being administered by the provincial government.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What is the number of recipients among Eastern Pakistan refugees, and what is the amount?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: From Eastern Pakistan, the total number of applications is 2,685. Out of these I do not know how many were sanctioned; I do not have the information here, but I can get it and supply it to the Honourable Member.

Shri R. K. Sidhya: 473 were sanctioned.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Is there any chance of the scales of grants being reduced, as a result of the economy drive?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The only way in which the present economy drive is likely to affect the Rehabilitation Finance Administration is that it may possibly lead to reduced provision for loans by the Administration; but that question has not yet arisen.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: May I know the total number of applications from refugees for help and the total number disposed of?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I propose to lay on the Table of the House at the earliest opportunity a detailed report of the working of this Administration and I think that will give Honourable Members all the information they desire.

Shri B. L. Sondhi: As against a sanctioned amount of Rs. 3.19 crores, the total amount already disbursed is only Rs. 1.38 crores. May I know why this difference of about 2 crores?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As the Honourable Member who is an experienced business man would understand, when a loan has been sanctioned, there are certain essential formalities for the applicant to go through. For example, he has to provide the necessary securities, he has to find the machinery, and then the proper location and all that. And all these take a certain amount of time.

NEW INDIAN ARMY HONOURS

***762. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Government of India propose to adopt Indian Honours for meritorious services by soldiers in the three arms of the fighting forces?

(b) If so, what will be these Honours and when will they be introduced?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) An announcement will be made giving details of these awards as soon as they are finalised and all connected preliminary arrangements are completed. It is proposed to introduce these awards on the inauguration of the new Constitution.

FORGED CURRENCY NOTES

***763. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that recently a very large number of forged currency notes have been discovered in circulation and if so, what is the value and extent of such forged currency notes seized and at which places?

(b) What measures have been taken so far by the Government of India to prevent and check the circulation of such forged currency notes and with what result?

(c) Have the Government of India supplied to the Banks in India lists of the numbers of forged currency notes in circulation?

(d) If so, have Government taken any action to publish such lists for the information of the general public and if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The information available with the Government does not suggest that there has been any large or unusual increase in the circulation of forged notes in the country.

(b) All forged notes tendered at the offices and agencies of the Reserve Bank of India are immediately impounded and the names and addresses of the tenderers are reported to the police for investigation and necessary action.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is not considered necessary to publish the numbers of forged notes as this will only serve to confuse the public.

RESIGNATION BY A CALCUTTA HIGH COURT JUDGE

***764. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the Judges of the Calcutta High Court has tendered resignation due to alterations in the conditions of his service under the new Constitution of India;

(b) the grievances ventilated in the letter of resignation; and

(c) the decision taken by Government in this matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes. Mr. Justice N. C. Chatterjee resigned his office in the Calcutta High Court with effect from the 3rd November 1949.

(b) and (c). It was a formal resignation addressed to the Governor of West Bengal, by whom it was formally acknowledged.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether any other judge of any other High Court has similarly tendered his resignation?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Not so far.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the Government has accepted the resignation of Justice Chatterjee?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well, there is no choice. Government has accepted it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has Mr. Chatterjee assigned any reasons in his letter of resignation?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not know whether in the letter of resignation he has given any reasons; but I have reasons to believe that because he felt that the conditions of service were adversely affected by the new Constitution, he resigned.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Were any representations received from the Judges of any other High Courts with regard to this matter, after the formal passing of the Constitution?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No.

SMUGGLING ACROSS INDO-BURMA BORDER

***765. Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that goods worth about two lakhs have been seized so far by the Custom Officials while being smuggled across the Indo-Burma border?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

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

(b) The offending goods were seized and subjected to departmental adjudication by Customs authorities. In cases where the offence was established the goods were confiscated and option given for redemption of goods on payment of fines. Personal penalties were also levied where considered necessary.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: May I know whether there has been any such case in the border of Eastern Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This is about the Indo-Burma frontier. The question of Pakistan does not arise here.

DETENUS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

***766. Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are under detention under the Punjab Safety Act or other similar enactments in (i) Delhi Province; and (ii) other Centrally Administered Areas;

(b) the number of such persons who have been under detention for more than six months; and

(c) the arrangements, if any, which exist for a periodical review of their cases?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) (i) 29 and (ii) Nil.

(b) One.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Arrangements that exist for the Review of cases of Detenus in Centrally Administered Areas

Delhi.—An Advisory Tribunal constituted under the provision of the East Punjab Public Safety Act, 1949, as made applicable to the Province of Delhi, reviews the cases of all the detenus. A copy of every order of detention or extension in the period of detention, with reasons therefor, is forwarded to the Tribunal.

Shrimati Purnima Banerji: May I know how many of these detenus have applied and received family allowances?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no information on that.

DETENTIONS UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818.

***767. Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are kept in detention, or have been deported, under Regulation III of 1818;

(b) the period for which each of these persons has been under detention;

(c) whether the cases of such persons are reviewed periodically; and

(d) whether any of them, and if so, how many, have been released since the 1st of January, 1949?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) One.

(b) Since 17th October, 1949.

(c) Yes.

(d) Five.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does Government propose to repeal this Regulation III of 1818 on the commencement of the Constitution.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It will automatically cease to be in existence after the new Constitution comes into force.

PALACES OF RULERS OF STATES ACCEDED TO PAKISTAN.

***768. Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any houses in Delhi belonging to Ruling Chiefs who or whose States have since acceded to Pakistan; and

(b) if the answer be in the affirmative, whether their houses have been treated as Evacuee Property under the law, and taken possession of by the Custodian?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes; Bahawalpur House.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by the Deputy Minister for External Affairs to Starred Question No. 571 by Shri R. K. Sidhva on the 14th December, 1949.

ADULTERATION OF MEDICINES

***769. Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is adulteration of medicines on a large scale in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the persons concerned refill bottles with inferior substitutes retaining the label of original manufacturers and re-sell them in the market;

(c) whether the Delhi Municipal Committee has passed a resolution to the above effect drawing the attention of the Government of India to this growing evil; and

(d) if so, what action, if any, Government have taken, or propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Complaints have been received from representatives of a few foreign Firms that spurious preparations of their products with similar names and labels are being marketed for sale in Delhi.

(b) It is alleged that bottles are refilled with substitutes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Provisions already exist in the Drugs Act to check the sale of misbranded drugs. Several raids have been made by the Drugs Inspector and efforts are continuing to locate where the counterfeits are manufactured or stocked. Samples of drugs alleged to be spurious have been obtained by the Drugs Inspector and sent for analysis. Necessary action will be taken on receipt of the test reports.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When were these raids by the Drugs Inspector carried out—this year or last year?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Quite recently, as soon as complaints were received by my Ministry.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have no arrests been made so far in this connection?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir. As I have already said, the analysis has to be made first before we take any action.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know whether the suspected persons have been suspended or not?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not think anybody has been suspended so far.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What is the number of cases in the hands of Government under investigation at the moment?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would have to have notice of that question.

Shrimati Daksrayani Velayudhan: Is it a fact that pipe water is sold as medicine?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

DISPLACED GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

***770. Shri B. N. Munavalli:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of permanent displaced Government servants from West Pakistan who have been taken up in the Government of India service on a purely temporary basis?

(b) Do Government propose to absorb such servants permanently and if so, when?

(c) How many of such servants are on the verge of retirement?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (c). The information is not readily available and cannot be collected without expenditure of time and effort in-commensurate with its utility.

(b) Permanent displaced Government servants are not *ipso facto* treated as permanent employees of the Government of India but as far as possible opportunities have been provided for their confirmation as and when vacancies arise.

Shri B. N. Munavalli: Some of these persons are on the verge of retirement. May I know whether Government proposes to give them pensions after their retirement?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If the pensions are admissible under the rules they will be given.

Shri H. V. Kamath: As a result of the retrenchment recently effected by Government, have any of these refugee government servants in the Central Secretariat been thrown out of employment?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not think so.

PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF BOOKS ACT, 1867

***771. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether in pursuance of section 9 of The Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 the requisite number of copies of every book printed in India are duly delivered to Government in all the provinces and Centrally Administered areas;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that the provisions of the above section are strictly complied with;

(c) in which office of a provincial Government such books are deposited and how such books are finally disposed of; and

(d) the number of prosecutions launched in each province and Centrally Administered area for breaches of the provisions of section 9 of The Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 during each of the last three years?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

PROJECTORS FOR VISUAL EDUCATION SOCIETY, BOMBAY

***772. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Visual Education Society, Bombay, has recently applied to Government for import of duty-free 16 mm film projectors used in schools and other educational institutions; and

(b) whether any decision has been taken thereon?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) No recent application from the Visual Education Society, Bombay, has been received by this Ministry.

(b) The question does not arise.

SAVING SCHEME FOR NON-GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

***773. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under contemplation the introduction of any scheme for compulsory saving by employees in private concerns industrial, commercial, and otherwise, as has been done in the case of Government servants; and

(b) if so, on what basis?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When does Government expect to complete the consideration and take a decision in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We are actively pursuing the matter.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it under active consideration or only under ordinary consideration?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is under very active consideration.

SEPARATION OF JUDICIARY FROM EXECUTIVE

***774. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the Government of India have any intention to bring about complete separation of Judiciary from Executive in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara?

(b) If so, has any plan been evolved and by which date is it contemplated to bring about complete separation, and if not, why?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). Government propose to examine this question after some experience has been gained of the experiments that are being tried in U.P. and Madras.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Is it the policy of the Government to bring about this separation or not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is the accepted policy of the Government. But it depends upon the time and the circumstances under which steps could be taken.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether the Honourable Minister has examined the scheme being followed in U.P. and Madras with a view to see whether there is or there is not actual separation of Judiciary from the Executive?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: We have not actually seen the working of the scheme in Madras and U.P., but we propose to examine them.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: I wanted to know about the scheme as laid down on paper, whether it does or does not actually effect separation of Judiciary from the Executive—not how it is working.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot say. But so far as Madras is concerned they have made the separation completely as an experiment in certain districts.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether Government have received any report of the progress of the work done in Madras on the question of separation of Judiciary from the Executive and if so, whether the results are satisfactory?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The matter has not reached a stage when a report can be made.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, (SCHOLARSHIPS)

***775. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the American Embassy, New Delhi, sent to the Government of India in August, 1949 the preliminary application forms for scholarships in Social Sciences, offered and arranged by the International Institute of Education, New York;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Embassy requested the Government of India to recommend the names and forward the applications of 48 University students by 1st December, 1949;

(c) whether it is a fact that the applications have not as yet been sent to the Embassy;

(d) whether it is a fact that the applications of the candidates who have directly submitted them to the Chief Public Affairs Officer, American Embassy, New Delhi, have been forwarded to the International Institute of Education, New York;

(e) whether any application has been forwarded by the Government of India to the American Embassy after 1st December, 1949; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the applications if sent after 1st December, 1949 will not be entertained by the Embassy?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) The American Embassy at New Delhi sent its offer together with a set of preliminary application forms on 7th November 1949.

(b) The Embassy requested that the recommendations of the Government of India together with suitable applications may be sent to them by the first week of December, 1949.

(c) No. All applications received up to 8th December, 1949 were sent to the U.S. Embassy on that date. Applications received thereafter have been withheld as they could not be entertained by the U.S. Embassy.

(d) It is understood from the U.S. Embassy that after consideration of the applications received by them from all over the country including those forwarded by the Ministry of Education, the applications of 48 candidates have been passed on to the International Institute of Education, New York.

(e) Yes, applications received upto 8th December have been sent.

(f) No. It is understood that all applications forwarded by the Government of India on 8th December, were considered by the U. S. Embassy before the preliminary selection was made.

***776. [WITHDRAWN]**

BURMA EVACUEES

***777. Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of Burma evacuees have returned to Vizagapatam district;

(b) if so, how many they are;

(c) whether any relief (either lump-sum or monthly payments) is being given to them until they are able to rehabilitate themselves; and

(d) whether in view of the fact that so many evacuees used to work in the saw-mills in Burma the Government will consider the advisability of persuading the Government of Madras to establish saw-mills in Vizagapatam district, where there are plenty of forests, so that these evacuees could find employment?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (d). The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Prime Minister. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for 22nd December, 1949, when the Honourable the Prime Minister will answer it.

SECURITY MEASURES IN ASSAM

***778. Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement of the Honourable Premier of Assam which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 5th December, 1949 regarding the security of Assam in view of the latest events in China?

(b) What steps have Government taken to strengthen the security measures in Assam on both the Burma and Pakistan Borders?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) It is not in the public interests to detail the steps taken by Government in this matter, but I can assure the Honourable Member that appropriate steps are being taken.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: May I know if the outposts at Aizal in Lushai Hills and Palel and Tamu in Manipur Hills have been strengthened?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: So far as I know, the strength there is, according to the report of the Assam Government, adequate.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: Under the present conditions across the border, have Government considered whether further strengthening of these outposts is necessary or not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: So far as the defence strength is concerned, the Central Government is of the opinion that it is quite adequate.

EDUCATION THROUGH RADIO

†*779. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether any scheme has been prepared by Government to impart education through radios?

(b) If so, what plans have been prepared so far in this respect?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) and (b). As early as 1944 on the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Education the Provincial Governments were requested to provide requisite facilities for school children to enable them to take advantage of educational broadcasts. But lack of funds prevents the supply of Radio receivers to schools in adequate numbers; however, attempts are being made to popularize the use of audio-visual aids in education.

In our schemes of Basic and Social Education it has been seen that the fullest use is made of the opportunities offered by the radio and the film. It is a great pity indeed that owing to the financial stringency these schemes could not be implemented so far.

MERGER OF KHASI STATES

*780. **Shri G. S. Guha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether the Khasi States of Assam, which have been included in the Sixth Schedule in the new Constitution of India, have been merged in the province of Assam?

(b) If so, has any of the Rulers of the Khasi States executed the Instrument of Merger?

(c) What is the present status of the Khasi Rulers and their Durbars?

(d) In the case of merger of their states, will these rulers be given any privy purses or allowances?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). No Instrument of merger has been executed but the States will be administered as part of Assam under the Sixth Schedule to the new Constitution.

(c) The Siems were recognised as such by Government and they executed an Instrument of Accession and a Standstill Agreement in accordance with which the administration of the territories is being carried on. Subject to the provision of these Instruments the Siems and their Durbars are at present functioning as before.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri G. S. Guha: If there has been a merger, how can these chiefs retain the status of Rulers?

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

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Many States have been merged but the status and dignity of the Rulers have been guaranteed.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: Will they still rule as before?

Mr. Speaker: There has been a merger. How does the question arise?

Shri G. S. Guha: Without the instrument of merger, can there be a merger?

Mr. Speaker: He is enquiring on a question of procedure.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: What privileges will they continue to enjoy after merger?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The privileges which they used to enjoy before.

RAILWAYS OR ROAD LINKS OF KUTCH PORTS

*781. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state what steps are being taken to develop and utilise the other ports of Kutch by constructing appropriate connecting railways or roads from the ports to the interior?

(b) What grants have been made to supplement the finances of the Chief Commissioner's province of Kutch during 1948-49, and budgetted for during the current year (1949-50) with special reference to building of roads and railways or irrigation works to guard against the frequent threat of famine in Kutch?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Government of India have received certain proposals from the Chief Commissioner, Kutch, for the development of facilities in ports in Kutch other than Kandla. These proposals are at present being scrutinised by our technical experts. As soon as technical advice is available, the question would be further considered. Meanwhile, earthwork on roads connecting the ports of Mundra, Jakhau and Lakhpat to the interior is in various stages of completion.

(b) A sum of Rs. 61.53 lakhs was sanctioned in connection with famine relief operations in Kutch during 1948-49 and 1949-50. Of this amount, 14.34 lakhs were utilised for the development of irrigation facilities, 13.19 lakhs for improvement and construction of roads, and Rs. 5 lakhs for the deepening of village tanks. We have also made a provision of Rs. 12 lakhs in the budget for 1950-51 for irrigation works in Kutch.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the ports recommended for development by the Regional Commissioner, Kutch, besides Kandla?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Kandla is the only major port recommended for development.

WOOLNER COLLECTIONS OF MANUSCRIPTS AT LAHORE

*782. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Woolner collections at Lahore consisting of some 10,000 manuscripts in Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit and other Indian languages formed part of the assets divisible between India and Pakistan;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how the matter was dealt with; and

(c) whether the Government of India propose to approach the Government of

Pakistan for the transfer of their shares of the manuscripts or for obtaining their micro-film copies?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) and (b). The questions raised are essentially provincial matters and have not been taken up at the Inter-Dominion Conference level in the absence of a request from either of the two provincial Governments concerned.

(c) A copy of the question and the reply will be forwarded to the Government of the East Punjab for any action they consider necessary.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that this matter of manuscripts and other old documents came up for consideration at the first meeting of the Partition Council held in June or July, 1947? In that case how could it be a Provincial matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He can ask on post-partition matters.

Shri H. V. Kamath: But is it not a fact that it came up before the first meeting of the Partition Council just before transfer of power?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I have no information. I would like to have notice of the question.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Does not the Central Government control all the archives and the ancient monuments under its own jurisdiction?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: No, not all.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Don't these manuscripts come under the Central Government because they deal with archives and old manuscripts?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is now arguing.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Under the jurisdiction of which Province is this matter?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: East Punjab.

Shri H. V. Kamath: On the other side?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: The West Punjab Government.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: If the matter stands between East Punjab and West Punjab, then shall I take it that the West Punjab is also one of the Provinces?

Mr. Speaker: Province of what?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Of India.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Before the transfer of power to India and Pakistan by the British Government, was this subject under Provincial jurisdiction or Central jurisdiction?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I think it was under Provincial jurisdiction, but I cannot say definitely.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a Provincial subject?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. No arguments.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BOOKS IN LIBRARIES

28. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of books kept in (i) the Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi, and (ii) the India Library, Calcutta.

(b) of the above how many books are in (i) Hindi, (ii) English, and (iii) all other Languages; and

(c) the amount spent on the purchase of books in the libraries mentioned in part (a) above during each of the last three years?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) (i) 73,297, (ii) 4,46,263 (This figure is in respect of the National Library, Calcutta as there is no India Library in Calcutta.)

(b) (i) Five in the Central Secretariat Library and 2,974 in the National Library, Calcutta, (ii) 72,792 in the Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi and 3,84,825 in the National Library, Calcutta, (iii) 500 in the Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi and 58,464 in the National Library, Calcutta.

(c) Approximately Rs. 15,000 for the year 1946-47, Rs. 20,000 for the year 1947-48 and Rs. 24,000 for the year 1948-49. A detailed statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Details of expenditure incurred on acquisition of books during the last three years in the Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi and National Library, Calcutta.

Name of the Library.	Amount spent during 1946-47.	Amount spent during 1947-48.	Amount spent during 1948-49.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(i) The Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi.	7,000-0-0	13,700-0-0	13,098-0-0
(ii) The National Library, Calcutta.	8,078-0-8	6,262-12-10	10,878-6-10
TOTAL	15,078-0-8	19,962-12-10	23,976-6-10

SURPLUS RAILWAY AUDIT STAFF

29. Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the position regarding the Gazetted Officers, Accountants, S.A.S. qualified clerks and others rendered surplus in the various Railway Audit Offices as a result of the partition of India and the action so far taken to absorb them finally?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: All the staff rendered surplus in the Railway Audit Branch as a result of partition have been absorbed in one capacity or other in the Railway Audit Offices themselves or elsewhere. Due to the abolition of a number of permanent posts in the Railway Audit Branch, the permanent surplus staff were taken against supernumerary permanent posts some of whom have since been absorbed in permanent vacancies which occurred subsequently. The number of such staff still remain to be absorbed in permanent regular posts are:

Auditors, 8.

Upper Division clerks, 11.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Wednesday, 21st December, 1949.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

A RAILWAY BETWEEN SANTA CRUZ AIR PORT AND BOMBAY CITY

*783. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to link up the international airport of Santa Cruz with Bombay City by rail?

(b) If so, what stage has this proposal reached?

(c) What will be the length of this railway?

(d) What will be its cost and when is it likely to be completed?

(e) What will be the terminus station in the city with which this railway will be linked?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) In the Aerodrome Development Scheme prepared in 1946, there was a proposal for the provision of a branch line from Santa Cruz station to the aerodrome terminal building, but this was omitted in the revised scheme prepared in 1948.

(b) The proposal has been dropped.

(c) and (d). The length and cost of the railway were not worked out. As the proposal has since been dropped, the question of its completion does not arise.

(e) The original plan provided for connecting the air-port with Santa Cruz railway station on the B. B. and C. I. Railway, but as already pointed out the proposal has since been dropped.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether this scheme has been kept pending *sine die* or postponed for want of funds?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: It has been dropped, I think, for the time being.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: How far is Bandra Slaughter House from the aerodrome?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid I have no information on this point.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: In view of the fact that Bandra is only.....

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise from this.

BARLEY FROM ARGENTINA

***784. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether an agreement has been entered into by the Government of India with an Argentina firm for export of Barley to India?

(b) If so, what is the quantity and the rate at which the contract has been given?

(c) Was the transaction made on Government-to-Government basis or through private agency?

(d) What is the quality of the barley and is it fit for consumption?

(e) When is the delivery of this barley promised?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) No.

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

TRAWLERS FOR FISHING IN DEEP SEA WATERS

***785. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether more trawlers for catching deep sea fish round the west coast of India have been purchased recently and if so, how many?

(b) What was their cost and from what countries were they purchased?

(c) In what part of India will these trawlers be used?

(d) Will these be hired out to private concerns and if so, on what terms?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes. Two.

(b) The total cost including transport charge upto Bombay was Rs. 9,77,813 (£73,336). They were purchased from Holland.

(c) On the West Coast of India at Bombay.

(d) In view of the nature of their work it will not be possible to give these vessels on hire to private concerns.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether these trawlers are fitted with equipment so as to operate during the monsoon?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Did they work last month?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They did in September. I do not know whether they worked last month.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether some foreign experts were invited for this purpose?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have not had any foreign experts, but we have had a skipper for the vessel from U.K.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: What is the actual catch from these trawlers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The total value was Rs. 15,000 during five or six weeks.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has Government any plans to catch deep sea fish on the West Coast of India and the Bay of Bengal?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: So far as the West Coast is concerned, these cutters are intended for that area.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I mean the East Coast.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Not, yet. We are experimenting now with the West Coast.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that an Economy Committee was appointed to go into this matter of expansion of this sea fish industry?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether there has been any increase in the catch after the trawlers were introduced? If so, what is the increase?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In the first week's voyage, it was one ton. In the second, three tons, in the third, four tons, then 6½ tons and then 9½ tons. The yield is progressively increasing as we gain experience of where the fish are in abundance.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know whether Government has recently launched a 'catch more-eat more fish campaign'?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How are these fish disposed of? Are they sold in the market?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: At present, they are sold in the Bombay market. As yet, we have not got enough quantity to send to other parts of the country.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether proposals for the expansion of the activities of the station are being examined by the Economy Committee set up for the purpose? One of the measures under consideration is the expansion of the area of operation which is at present bounded by Ratnagiri in the South and the Rann of Cutch in the North. May I know whether a press note was issued on the subject?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It may have been. I do not see every Communication that is issued.

NEW TELEPHONE INSTALLATIONS FOR BOMBAY

***786. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a new scheme has been prepared to instal a larger number of telephone lines in the city of Bombay?

(b) If so, what is the total number of lines that will be operating under this scheme?

(c) What will this scheme cost and when is the work likely to be started and completed?

(d) What is the demand from Bombay for new telephone installations?

(e) How much of the demand has been met and when is the rest likely to be met?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Yes.

(b) 18,200.

(c) and (e). The cost of the scheme is approximately Rs. 3,17 lakhs. The work started in June, 1949. 82 new telephone connections have been given since then. 1,000 new lines are expected to be ready by March, 1950. Another 5,400 lines are likely to be completed by the end of 1950. Construction of the remaining lines will be taken up as and when funds become available in the following years.

(d) There are about 20,000 applicants on the waiting list for new connections.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether this includes the expansion of the Poona telephones also?

Shri Khurshed Lal: It refers to Bombay only.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether there is a scheme by which only those who deposit Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 2,000 will be entitled to get a telephone connection without payment of rent for the next twenty years?

Shri Khurshed Lal: A scheme like that is under consideration. It is not yet formulated.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I ask from the Honourable Minister whether he has taken into consideration the fact that this will be creating a monopoly for the rich and that poor people will have no chance of getting a telephone connection?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether *interim* orders have been issued by Government to all big stations like Bombay, Delhi, Amritsar, Calcutta, etc., that no fresh telephone connections are to be given pending a decision on this scheme?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Yes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: How long will Government take to arrive at a decision?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: In about a month.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I have some idea of the amount that the subscriber will be asked to pay?

Mr. Speaker: It is not yet finalised.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Will Government take this House into its confidence before implementing this scheme?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: If this House happens to meet when the final decision is taken, it will be placed before this House.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know what are the reasons for launching upon this new scheme? How did it crop up and why is the normal method being departed from?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: The scheme is only under consideration.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Telephone Advisory Committee be asked to express its opinion before this scheme comes into effect?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That Committee is only for advising on allotments and not for advising on policy.

RAILWAY POLICE FORCE

*787. **Shri R. K. Sidhva**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Railway Board has any proposal in regard to the formation of separate police force to be controlled by Railway authorities?

(b) If so, what are the details of the proposal?

(c) Under whose jurisdiction does the present railway police force work?

(d) Does the Railway Board exercise any supervision, or control over the railway police force and enforce discipline in it?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Railway Police force is functioning under the jurisdiction of the respective Provincial Governments.

(d) No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Railway Board considered this subject at any stage regarding maintenance of a Police Force by themselves, in view of complaints having been received to the effect that the Provincial Governments do not pay attention?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I don't think we seriously considered any such question.

TOURIST TRAFFIC

*788. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether there is any scheme for attracting increasing number of foreign tourists to this country?

(b) If so, what is that scheme?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) and (b). The Ministry of Transport are taking steps to encourage foreign tourist traffic to this country. The formalities relating to the issue of *visas* and customs and registration restrictions have been modified with a view to eliminate all avoidable inconvenience to foreign tourists. Special attention is being devoted to the important problems of food and drink and residential accommodation both at the ports of entry and at the centres likely to attract tourists. Railway facilities are also being improved. The preparation of guide books and other up-to-date tourist literature is on hand. A Tourist Traffic Section has been set up at the headquarters and a regional office is proposed to be opened in Bombay shortly. The assistance of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East is also being obtained to secure expert advice on various important problems relating to tourist traffic *e.g.*, organisation, hotel accommodation etc.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether any steps have actually been taken or it is only a scheme?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Some of them have actually been taken, others are in contemplation.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Will the Minister kindly give us an idea of the income for the current year from tourist traffic?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: We have no information on that.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Have Government any idea of introducing 'go-as-you-please' tickets for encouraging tourist traffic?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: They are not meant for foreign tourists.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know the extent to which the Honourable Minister has succeeded in attracting foreign travellers to India recently?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: To some extent foreign tourists were attracted by our propaganda for Kashmir this year but other steps will be implemented during next year.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is there any machinery in Government to ascertain the disabilities suffered by the foreign tourists and are there any suggestions for improving this?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: We have got a Tourist Traffic Advisory Committee in which foreign Traveller Associations working here, like Cook and Sons, are represented and they bring to light the difficulties and we are taking steps to remove the difficulties relating to accommodation etc.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does Government propose to invite any foreign expert to advise them on the development of tourist traffic?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: At the recent meeting of the ECAFE a resolution was adopted by which experts will be coming to study this question in this country as well as other countries of East Asia.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many are coming?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next Question.

VANASPATI

†*789. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state,

(a) if the results of scientific research on the use of vanaspati have been finalised; and

(b) whether any colouring material has been approved of?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to answers given to Question No. 408 put on the 8th December, 1949, by Shri R. K. Sidhya.

SUPPLY OF FOOD-STUFF

†*790. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state if it is proposed to provide special facilities for procuring plantains, potatoes, and sweet potatoes at concession rates to those who take regularly these articles of food as a substantial part of their daily diet?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The reply is in the negative.

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

DELAY IN DELIVERY OF MAIL

†*791. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are aware that there are complaints of delay in the delivery of letters and money orders; and

(b) what steps, if any, are being taken to expedite their delivery?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) and (b). There were numerous complaints of delay in the delivery of letters till a few months back, but lately as a result of steps taken by the Department there has been a marked improvement in this respect. As regards money orders Government are aware there are still complaints about delay and effective steps are being taken to improve this state of affairs. It will take too much time of the House to give details of these steps.

WATER TRANSPORT

†*792. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state the steps taken for the development of water transport in India?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: 'Inland Waterways and traffic thereon' is at present a Provincial subject, the role of the Centre being largely one of co-ordination of the problems affecting more than one Province or other forms of transport. These problems as affecting North-East India were reviewed by the Transport Advisory Council and it was agreed that full data should be collected before any further action was taken. It has since been decided that a survey of inland water transport possibilities should be made on an all India basis and the Ministry of Transport has called for factual data from the Provincial and State Governments concerned with a view to assessing the possibilities.

In the meantime, the question of developing water borne goods traffic on the Ganga system of rivers was considered urgent and the Government of India convened a conference of representatives of the interests concerned on the 31st August, 1949. A Special Committee of the Conference recommended that the question of Inland Water Transport on the Ganga from Buxar to Allahabad should be taken up first and a Sub-committee was appointed to conduct a reconnaissance survey and submit its report to the Government of India. The Sub-committee met recently and further action can be taken only on receipt of its report.

Consequent on the changes made in the Seventh Schedule to the New Constitution with regard to the item "inland waterways and traffic thereon", the Government of India is bound to play an important part in the development of inland water transport.

At the instance of the Indian Delegation, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East have agreed to arrange for an expert examination of the development of the traffic capacity of specific inland waterways. It is understood that the services of a reputable expert is being obtained for the purpose.

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

REFRESHMENT ROOMS AT RAILWAY STATIONS

*793. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that railway passengers are put to great difficulty when at some of the railway stations only non-vegetarian refreshment rooms are maintained?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of having only vegetarian refreshment rooms at stations where there is provision for only one refreshment room?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Government are not aware of any general complaint of this nature having been received by Railways.

(b) The category of Refreshment Rooms to be provided at particular station is dependent on the requirements of the majority of the travelling public of the area concerned and Government propose to continue to follow this policy in determining the type of Refreshment Rooms to be provided at stations.

TELEPHONIC LINK OF BALANGIR (ORISSA)

*794. **Shri Yudhisthir Mishra:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any scheme was sanctioned last year to link Balangir, the District Head-quarters of Balangir—Patna and now under Sambalpur head office in the Orissa Postal Circle, with All India by telephone and if so, what steps have been taken so far and if none, whether Government propose to take any steps in the near future?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative.

The question of linking Balangir to the General Trunk System of India was considered last year but was given up as the project was considered unremunerative.

A public call office will be opened at Balangir provided the Government of Orissa furnishes the necessary guarantee.

Shri Yudhisthir Mishra: May I know what is the necessary guarantee the Honourable Minister wants?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Annual income of Rs. 8,000.

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

*795. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state how many new agricultural training institutions have been started in the years 1948-49 and 1949-50, by the Government of India?

(b) Are there any private agricultural training institutions and farms in India?

(c) If so, is any of them recognised by Government?

+ Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) None.

(b) and (c). There are eleven agricultural training institutions in the provinces and States. Nine are recognised by Government. A statement containing details is laid on the Table of the House (See Appendix XX, *annexure No. 1.*)

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: May I know whether any short course training arrangements have been made for those officers in service who have not sufficient experience in agriculture?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have got post-graduate training arrangements at Delhi in the Pusa Institute.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Have Government any arrangements for imparting training to officers in the Department who have had no training in agriculture?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Officers who were not at all trained in agriculture need not be in the Department.

Shri Upendranath Barman: Is it a fact that the Government of India is proposing to close the Central College of Agriculture?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No.

Shri Upendranath Barman: Is it a fact that new admissions have been stopped?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They may be stopped from the next year but the College will continue for three years atleast unless the situation changes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the decision referred to by the Honourable Minister regarding the Central College has been taken on account of the expenditure which is incurred on the residence of the students and the figures supplied were not correct?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That was only one of the considerations but it is difficult to expand the college in the present set-up on account of financial stringency.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Central College is being housed in a rented building and, if so, what is the rent?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is in a rented building and the rent is Rs. 3,000 a month.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know if the Honourable Minister has any scheme for assisting and giving grants-in-aid to private agricultural training institutions?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think a number of institutions are receiving grants from the Provincial Governments and naturally it will be the function of the Provincial Governments to give financial aid to local agricultural institutions.

Shri A. Karunakara Menon: Have any existing institutions already been stopped or hampered by the economy drive of the Government in the year 1949-50?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Not, so far as the Central Government is concerned. So far as the Provincial Government is concerned, I will have to secure information.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that there are certain facilities available to the Central College of Agriculture in Delhi which are not available in other provinces, and if the institution is closed, there will be great hardship?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

WHEAT IMPORTS

***796. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of wheat India is bound to purchase under the International Wheat Agreement and the countries from which the same is to be purchased;

(b) what quantity of wheat has already been imported under the said agreement into India and from which countries and at what cost;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of Australia is proposing about 44 per cent. increase in the export price of wheat settled under the International Wheat Agreement to compensate for increased Dollar expenditure following pound devaluation; and

(d) what measures the Government of India propose to take to counteract the effect of such an increase in the price of wheat to be imported from Australia?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) 1,042,000 metric tons per annum provided the price is the minimum laid down in the Agreement. This quantity can be purchased from any one or more of the exporting countries which are members of the Agreement, viz., Australia, Canada, U.S.A., France and Uruguay.

(b) No purchases of wheat have so far been recorded under the Agreement which came into force with effect from 1st August, 1949. Since this date wheat has been imported into India from Australia only. The quantity of Australian wheat from shipments since 1st August, 1949, which should be counted as supplied under the Agreement, is under negotiation with the Australian Wheat Board.

(c) Yes.

(d) Negotiations are being carried to effect a reduction in price.

Pandit Mukat Bihari Lal Bhargava: Is there any agency appointed by the Government of India to inspect the grains that are imported into India from outside?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Has the Honourable Minister seen a news item that Australia has decided to reduce the price of wheat flour? How is it going to benefit us?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have seen that in the Press. As the matter is under negotiation, I would not be able to give details.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether Government is in a position to tell the House the estimated saving on the imports of rice on account of the drop in the import of rice?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I have not the information handy.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the period of agreement under clause (a) to which the Honourable Minister is referring?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is four years.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: From what year?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: From August 1949.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Shall I take it that wheat will be imported when we shall not need importing it according to the present programme of Grow-More-Food?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We shall be forced to import only at the minimum rate prevailing at that time and even if we have to import, it will be used as a reserve to reduce the prices in the country or to meet any extraordinary emergencies.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What is the quantity of reserve that is proposed to be built?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Foodgrains Policy Committee recommended about five to ten lakh tons.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Is Australia charging the same price for different countries or different prices?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: So far as the agreement is concerned same prices govern all the countries but so far as purchases outside the agreement are concerned, the prices may be different for different countries.

QUARTERS FOR DISPLACED PERSONS ON PUSA ROAD

†*797. Lala Raj Kanwar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chief Engineer, Central P.W.D. did not approve of the site where the quarters for displaced persons on Pusa Road, New Delhi have been constructed and regarding which there has been severe criticism in the Press recently on technical grounds, and that he was asked to carry out the instructions of the Ministry for the said construction despite this difference of opinion?

(b) If so, was better technical opinion obtained before discarding the Chief Engineer's technical opinion?

(c) If not, were there any special reasons for discarding that opinion?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No.

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

CROP INSURANCE

***798. Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Special Officer appointed to report on the feasibility of introducing Crop Insurance in India, has submitted his report?

(b) What are the crops and what are the areas recommended by him for the preliminary introduction of the scheme?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

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

(b) In the Report the Officer has suggested that a pilot scheme of crop insurance may be introduced covering Rice, Wheat, Cotton and Sugarcane in areas as indicated below:—

Rice—in Madras, U.P. and C.P. and Berar.

Wheat—in U.P. and C.P. and Berar.

Cotton—in Madras, Bombay and C.P. and Berar.

Sugarcane—in U.P.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether these recommendations will be implemented and, if so, when?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It will depend upon the reports that we receive from the Provincial Governments. As soon as they are received we shall come to a decision.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Will the Report be made available to the Members of the House?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes. I thought it has been circulated; if not, I shall have it circulated.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Does the Government of India approve of this scheme?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Will other Provinces be included in this scheme?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: These are the Provinces with which we want to make a beginning.

CIVIL AVIATION

*799. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that most of the Air lines are operating on loss?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to assist the Air-lines?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) No, Sir. The latest available balance sheets show that four out of nine companies earned profits from their operations in 1948; the results of operations in 1949 have not been published.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to Shri Ajit Prasad Jain's Starred Question No. 136 on the 30th November, 1949.

RAILWAY FREIGHT

*800. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Railway freight from Bombay to Delhi for bananas has been increased from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 7,300/- per wagon within the last few months and if so, why?

(b) Does the Railway Department know that the Ministry of Food is trying to increase the production of bananas as a subsidiary food?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to banana booking stations in the Bombay area and not to Bombay proper. The railway freight for carriage of bananas from Virar,

Nalla-Sopara and Bassein Road in the Bombay area to Delhi was Rs. 525, Rs. 527 and Rs. 529 respectively per wagon of 15 tons carrying capacity prior to 1st June, 1949. The corresponding present freight rates are Rs. 1,039, Rs. 1,041 and Rs. 1,044 respectively. The incidence of freight in the sale prices of bananas is estimated at something between seven and nine per cent. only.

(b) Yes.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether this increase in the railway freight rate has been effected in respect of every other article or for bananas only?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The position is that we have brought about uniformity in the freight rates. It was very high in certain areas and very low in certain others. It was half parcel rate in certain areas and less than quarter parcel rate in certain others. Now all fruits are charged at quarter parcel rates by Railway Administrations throughout the country.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Is it a fact that after the increase of the railway freight, the export of bananas from Khandesh, which is a predominantly banana-growing area, has been reduced appreciably?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I am not aware of that information.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether this increase of railway freight will hamper the Grow More Subsidiary Food campaign of the Government?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I do not think so, because the freight is only the price of one banana per dozen, and the freight rates are the same as for bananas from Madras and other parts of the country. The uniformity in freight charges increases the chances of people all over the country eating fruits.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether there has been a general increase in the freight, mostly for perishable articles?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: As I have said, the freight rates have been decreased wherever they were very high and increased wherever they were very low.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether the Food Department of the Government of India has approached the Railway Department for removing this increase in freight rate?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: We do not consult the Food Department for every readjustment of freight rates.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether this increase in the freight rate has been effected in order to give protection to the banana growers in Madras?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question need not be answered.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know the freight rate for a wagon of 15 tons of perishable articles, including fruit?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: For fruits it is quarter parcel rate; for vegetables it is half parcel rate.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: What is the rate in rupees, annas and pies per wagon of 15 tons?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The freight depends on from which place to which place it is to be carried.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Say from Bombay to Nallasuparna.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member might enquire from him privately.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know how the booking of these wagons, that is, the traffic—has been affected ever since the freight rate was enhanced?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I would require notice of that question. But I do not think it has been seriously affected.

RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVES

***801. Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new locomotives being purchased from foreign countries were designed to burn low grade coals;

(b) whether it is a fact that some 300 or more of such locomotives have already arrived and been put on the lines; and

(c) whether these locomotives are actually burning such coals?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The new locomotives being purchased from foreign countries have been designed to burn coals of grades inferior to those required for locomotives of earlier design.

(b) 178 engines of these types had been received up to 31st October 1949 and others are expected shortly.

(c) Yes, the new locomotives are burning coal of comparatively low grades as explained in reply to part (a).

Shri R. L. Malviya: I would like to know how much inferior grade coal these engines are consuming. Are they consuming metallurgical coal also?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: No, no.

RAILWAY SIDINGS FOR COLLIERIES

***802. Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many applications for assisted sidings have been received by the Railways from collieries in the Jharia Coal field since the year 1944 and how many of them have been complied with and how many rejected?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to implement the recommendations contained in Chapter XXII of the report of the Indian Coalfields Committee, 1945, regarding increased transport facilities and speeding up arrangements for the grant of sidings to collieries?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) 53 applications have been received; of these 24 have been sanctioned and 16 rejected. Ten applications are still under consideration and the remaining three have been withdrawn by the firms.

(b) Plans for accelerating the movement of coal traffic by the construction of new lines, increasing capacity of existing lines, and remodelling of main yards have been drawn up and in order to achieve co-ordinated development these are being implemented, as necessary, in consultation with the Ministry

of Industry and Supply. The Central Board of Transport also review the position from time to time.

As regards speeding up arrangements for the provision of sidings to collieries, Railways have instructions to deal with applications expeditiously and within the available resources in materials and finance, to push on with the construction of such of the sidings as are justified.

Shri R. L. Malviya: What is the mileage which is required to link these collieries in Jharia?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid I should like to have notice of that question.

Shri R. L. Malviya: May I bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That is not a question.

NEW AIR-LINE AND AERODROME

***803. Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken for establishing a commercial air-line service between Kulu, East Punjab and Delhi, and

(b) whether a regular aerodrome is proposed to be established at Pathankot?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) No, Sir. East Punjab is connected with Delhi and Kashmir by the Delhi-Amritsar-Jammu-Kashmir air service. There is no aerodrome in Kulu which can be utilised for a commercial air service.

(b) No, Sir.

KEROSENE OIL

***804. Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has been made for prospecting for kerosene oil round about the Chakki River near Pathankot in East Punjab; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Not yet. For the present survey is being carried out near Jawala Mukhi which is about 45 miles from Pathankot.

(b) Does not arise.

NANGAL AND BHAKRA PROJECTS

***805. Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the revised estimate of expenditure on the Nangal and Bhakra projects respectively;

(b) the grants made by the Government of India on these projects up to 31st October 1949;

(c) the amount spent on these projects up to the 31st October, 1949; and

(d) the progress made in the two schemes up to date?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Both are treated as a combined project and the revised estimate for the combined project amounts to Rs. 131 crores.

(b) No grants are made for this Project by the Government of India. Loans amounting to Rs. eight crores have been advanced to the Government of the East Punjab up to the 31st October 1949.

(c) Rs. 6.43 crores.

(d) A note detailing the progress of works on the Bhakra Nangal Project is placed on the Table of the House (See Appendix XX, Annexure No. 2).

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know the amount demanded by the East Punjab Government for the construction of the Bhakra and Nangal Projects?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The total amount would be Rs. 131 crores.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: What is the amount they have asked for the current year and the next year?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: For the current year they have asked Rs. 6 crores and for the next year Rs. 12 crores.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In how many years does Government expect to be able to complete this project?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Well, if there is no financial difficulty, then by the year 1954-55 this project will be completed.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I know what amount of loan has been sanctioned for this year and the next?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Up to 31st October, we have actually given Rs. 8 crores.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: But how much have you sanctioned?

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

Shri B. P. Jhunjunwala: May I know, as a result of the what is the criterion for reducing the grants for different projects? Also, do Government consider the continuance of the original grant for such projects as will yield immediate results?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is the most important consideration.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Do Government propose to advance the entire loan to the East Punjab Government, and if not, why not?

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: May I know whether Government propose to postpone this project?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Not in the least.

RAILWAY STAFF REPATRIATED FROM WEST PUNJAB

*306. **Kaka Bhagwant Roy:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of staff on the East Punjab Railway have come from the West Punjab?

(b) How many quarters have Government built for the staff of that Railway since the partition and how many they intend to build in the next year?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Yes, it is a fact that a large number of the staff of the E.P. Railway had their homes in West Punjab.

(b) 536 permanent and 295 temporary quarters have been built since the partition. 422 permanent quarters are under construction and are expected to be completed before the 31st March 1950, and 274 permanent quarters are programmed for construction during the next financial year.

Kaka Bhagwant Roy: May I know what is the total number of E.P.R. staff that has been recruited from the Western Punjab after partition?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I have not got the total number here, but there is a figure of 1,450 members of the headquarters staff and another 1,800 other staff. Some of them have been distributed on other Railways as well.

Kaka Bhagwant Roy: How many applications have been received for allotment of houses?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We are trying to provide accommodation for all the staff to the extent that it is possible to do so. Until the quarters are constructed, we have provided tent accommodation for them.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Do Government propose to provide accommodation for these Government servants from evacuee houses?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think the Railways are undertaking the provision of accommodation. I don't think we have, as Railways, taken up any evacuee houses.

SURPLUS STOCKS OF WHEAT AND GRAM IN RAJASTHAN

*807. **Shri Raj Bahadur:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether there are any surplus stocks of food grains, particularly of wheat and gram in the Bikaner division and the Alwar and Bharatpur Districts of the Rajasthan Union?

(b) If so, what is the total quantity and value of such stocks?

(c) Are there any Government reserve stocks of wheat and gram also in the Bikaner division and the districts of Bharatpur and Alwar?

(d) If so, what is the quantity of such Government reserve stocks?

(e) What are the controlled rates of wheat and gram in (i) Bikaner; (ii) Marwar; (iii) Udaipur; and (iv) Kotah divisions of Rajasthan?

The Honourable Shri Jairemdas Doulatram: (a) According to the information available with the Rajasthan Government, there are no surplus stocks of wheat in Bikaner, Alwar and Bharatpur districts of the United States of Rajasthan. Gram is, however, surplus in these areas.

(b) The surplus stocks of gram and their values in Bikaner, Alwar and Bharatpur are as follows: (i) In Bikaner—30,000 tons, valued at approximately Rs. 7,200,000; (ii) In Alwar—4,000 tons, valued at approximately Rs. 9,00,000; (iii) In Bharatpur—4,000 tons, valued at approximately Rs. 9,00,000.

+ Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent.

(e) and (d). Bikaner—Nil. Alwar—6,000 tons of gram. Bharatpur—2,500 tons of wheat.

(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Gram		Rate per maund.
		Rs.
Bikaner.	f. o. r.	10/3/3 producing area.
Marwar up to the consumer point including transport charges in the interior.		13/5/4
Udaipur.		12/13/-
Wheat		
Bikaner.		15/12/-
Marwar.		16/-
Udaipur.		16/-
Kotah.		14/8/9

RAILWAY UNIONS ON THE O.T.R.

*808. Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the names of the Unions recognised by the O. T. Railway and the number of members of each Union as shown by them in their annual audited returns to the Registrar of Trade Unions on 31st March 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949 respectively?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: A statement is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XX, annexure No. 3).

LANDING GROUND FOR AIRCRAFT AT NEEMUCH

*809. Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether a landing ground for aircraft exists at Neemuch Cantonment?

(b) Do Government propose to link it with some regular air service? If so, when; and if not, why not?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Yes, Sir, an aerodrome partially constructed during the War.

(b) No, Sir, Neemuch will not provide sufficient air traffic to justify expenditure on improving the aerodrome and providing the facilities necessary for a regular air service.

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: What is the present cost of its upkeep?

Shri Khurshed Lal: That was an aerodrome constructed during the war—I don't know what its cost was.

An Honourable Member: The question was about the present cost of its upkeep.

NIGHT AIR MAIL SERVICE FOR MADHYABHARAT AND RAJASTHAN

*810. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state if it is proposed to introduce the night Air Mail service to the Madhyabharat and Rajasthan Regions?

(b) If so, do Government contemplate to take any measures for the same during the current financial year?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) and (b). No, Sir, not at present.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN GWALIOR

*811. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there are no telegraph offices in the cities of the former State of Gwalior?

(b) If so, do Government propose to reopen telegraph offices in the cities where R.M.S. telegraph offices previously existed in Gwalior?

(c) If so, what are the names of the cities and towns where they propose to open telegraph offices during this year?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) This, Sir, is not correct. There are 16 Telegraph Offices worked by the P. and T. in the former State of Gwalior.

(b) It is proposed to open new Telegraph Offices at places where there is justification.

(c) Ujjain, Jawad and Bhind.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Do Government propose to reopen new telegraph offices in East Punjab?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

MAIL TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN AJMER AND KHANDWA

*812. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there is a great public demand for running a mail train between Ajmer and Khandwa on the B.B. & C.I. Railway?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken in the matter?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Suggestions from some of the Honourable Members of the Constituent Assembly were received and representations were made to me during my recent visit to Indore.

(b) There is already a fast passenger train each way between Ajmer and Khandwa. It is not feasible for the present to speed up this service but the question will be re-considered at the time of revising the time-table.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: How many metre gauge trains have been restored recently?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Restored where? The question is too vague for me to answer.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: What is the maximum speed of these trains?

OILS AND OIL SEEDS

*813. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of oil seeds produced in India in the years 1938-39, 1946-47, 1948-49 and in the current year;

(b) the total quantity of oil extracted from oil seeds in India during these years;

(c) the average maximum and minimum prices of different varieties of oil seeds and oils extracted therefrom prevailing in these years and in each month of the current year in India, and the reasons for the rise in price during the current year;

(d) the total quantity of oil seeds and oils imported into and exported from India to hard and soft currency areas during these years and the current year;

(e) the number of oil mills and the total crushing capacity thereof, and the total quantity of oil extracted by indigenous *Ghanis*;

(f) whether it is a fact that many of the crushing plants in the mills are lying idle owing to the non-availability of sufficient quantity of oil seeds; and

(g) what steps the Government of India have taken or contemplate to take in the near future to check the rise in prices of oil seeds and to make oil seeds available for crushing in the mills?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). The information is as follows:

Year	Total quantity of oilseeds produced	Total quantity of oil extracted
	tons	tons
1938-39	48,23,000	7,12,000
1946-47	51,48,000	11,91,000
1948-49	47,02,000	10,96,000

Figures for the year 1949-50 are not yet available. Statements showing the production and extraction of different oilseeds are also laid on the Table. (See Appendix XX, annexure No. 4, Statement I).

(c) A statement showing the wholesale prices of different oilseeds in the Bombay Market is laid on the Table. (See Appendix XX, annexure No. 4, Statement II).

The rise in the prices of oilseeds and oils during the current year was due largely to decline in production of oilseeds during 1948-49 and to speculative activity.

(d) The information is placed on the Table (See Appendix XX, annexure No. 4, Statement III).

(e) There are about 600 oil-mills in India. Their total annual crushing capacity is estimated at 2,773,000 tons of seeds. The total quantity of seeds crushed by Village *Ghanis* is estimated at 6,63,000 tons per annum.

(f) Precise information about the crushing plants is not available but it is roughly estimated that Mills are working upto 50 per cent of their capacity and village *Ghanis* up to 2/3rds of their capacity.

(g) The Provincial Governments have been requested to enforce strictly the provisions of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act 1946 banning forward trading in oilseeds and oils. As regards the availability of seeds for crushing, the Indian Oilseeds Committee has implemented various schemes in collaboration with Provincial Governments for the multiplication and distribution of improved seeds, and for the control of pest, etc. Suggestions have also been made to the Provincial Governments as to the manner in which increased production of oilseeds can be obtained.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Has Government taken any steps to stop this speculative activity in order to control the prices?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have authorised the Provincial Governments to ban forward transactions.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Do Government propose to consider bringing in any all-India measure to put down speculative transactions?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: At present the powers are with the Provincial Governments to regulate speculative transactions.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Do Government propose to encourage producers' co-operative societies for the crushing and exporting of oilseeds?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Certainly, we want to encourage every co-operative activity.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the quantity mentioned in reply to (d) includes coconut oil imported?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No, coconut oil is excluded.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know the steps so far taken by Government to organise producers' co-operative societies?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is beyond the scope of the question.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know if Government propose to give any protection to *Ghanis* against competition from oil mills?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is no definite proposal now before Government for that purpose.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the All-India Oilseeds Committee has recommended to Government, not once but repeatedly, that some all-India action should be taken to check these speculative activities in oilseeds and oil?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That has been so, as I said. We have accordingly asked the Provincial Governments to control this speculative activity. At present the power is with the Provincial Governments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But is it not a fact that the Government of India themselves have been saying.....

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the Honourable Member is arguing now.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No, Sir. Is it not a fact.....

Mr. Speaker: What is the information that he wants to have?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The information is: whether it is a fact that the Govern-

ment of India themselves have been saying that they were having a Bill under contemplation for controlling this speculation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am afraid that is beyond the scope of the question.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know what portion of the oilseeds go to the vegetable oil factories?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think about 25 per cent.

FLYING CLUBS

***814. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state (i) the number of Flying Clubs existing in various Provinces, States and Unions of States of the Indian Union, (ii) the total number of members of such clubs, (iii) the number of instructors employed in the clubs for imparting training, (iv) the number of trainees at such clubs, and (v) the amount of subsidy paid by Government to the various flying clubs?

(b) What is the amount of fee payable by a trainee to a flying club in India, and how does this fee compare with the fee payable by a trainee in Pakistan and the United Kingdom?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) I lay on the Table a statement giving the information required.

(b) The fees payable by trainees at Flying Clubs in India are between Rs. 20 to 25 per hour of flying, according to the type of aircraft. The corresponding charges in Pakistan and the United Kingdom are Rs. 15 and £5 per hour, respectively.

STATEMENT

(i) The number of Flying Clubs existing in the various Provinces, States, and Unions of States in the Indian Union	13
(ii) The total number of members of such Clubs	2474
(iii) The number of instructors employed in the Clubs for imparting training	35
(iv) The number of trainees at such Clubs	362
(v) The total amount of subsidy proposed to be paid to the Flying Clubs during the year 1949-50	Rs. 12,02,500

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Do Government think that the present high fee charged is conducive to the promotion of flying?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a matter of opinion.

Shri A. Karunakara Menon: Are any of these air crafts for trainees used for carrying mails?

Shri Khurshed Lal: No.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Have Government examined the complaint that part of the subsidy given to the Flying Clubs is off-set by the free maintenance of Government-owned planes and free flying by some of the members of the Provincial and Central Governments?

Shri Khurshed Lal: There is no free flying done by members of the Central Government and so far as Provincial Governments are concerned, I do not know on what basis the subsidy is given.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Part of my question has not been answered. What about free maintenance of planes owned by Government?

Shri Khurshed Lal: No planes of the Central Government are maintained free by any Flying Club.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the total amount of the subsidy paid to these Flying Clubs?

Shri Khurshed Lal: We pay Rs. 30,000 a year to each Club and then we pay them per hour of flying.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: In view of the frequent accidents that occur to the trainees in these Flying Clubs, may I know what are the precautions that have been taken by them?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Accidents in training are inherent, but all possible precautions are being taken to prevent accidents.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any scheme to promote gliding in this country?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Yes. A subsidy has been given to the Flying Clubs and I understand they are beginning their operations on the 15th January.

POSTAL LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

***815. Shri M. Satyanarayana:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state what are the total number of settlements in the Postal Life Insurance Policies during the last five years?

(b) What is the time taken generally between the maturity of the Policy and payment?

(c) How much time is taken for the final settlement and payment of the amount, after the required documents have been received from the policyholder?

(d) Are Government aware that there are delays in settlement of the policies and if so, what steps are being taken to expedite payments?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) 17,909.

(b) and (c). Generally two to three months from the date of receipt of claim, assuming that all the relevant documents are submitted along with the claim.

(d) Delays occur in settlement of only those cases that are contested or of policies that have not been assigned. In other cases claims are settled without undue delay.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the claim of all the refugees who have come from Pakistan in respect of their Postal Life Insurance Policies has been admitted by Government or refused?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Under the Partition Agreement, some claims have to be

paid by the Pakistan Government in respect of people who have come here and their cases are under negotiation with the Pakistan Government.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the period, within which the claims will be paid by the Government of India and others by the Pakistan Government?

Shri Khurshed Lal: 15th August 1947—people who were domiciled here or there.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: It is not clear. 15th August 1947 means what? Does it mean that Government will recognise the claims of those who have come after 15th August 1947?

Mr. Speaker: From the 15th of August 1947.

Shri Khurshed Lal: The claims of those who have come after that date will be recognised by the Government of Pakistan and till that date by us.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the maximum amount up to which one can insure in the Postal Life Insurance and is it contemplated to increase that maximum limit?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: There is no such proposal under consideration. As regards the maximum, the rules lay down the limit and that information can be obtained by referring to the rules.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is there any proposal to extend the privilege of Postal Life Insurance to the general public also?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Not at the present moment.

POSTAL LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES (BONUS)

***816. Shri M. Satyanarayana:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the bonus on Postal Life Insurance Policies has been declared for the quinquennium—1942 and 1947?

(b) If so, when is the amount likely to be adjusted and if it has already been adjusted, on what date?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) No. A bonus is expected to be declared early next year.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: What was the cause of the delay in declaring the bonus?

Shri Khurshed Lal: In declaring this bonus, we had also to consider the Government of Pakistan.

DELHI TRANSPORT SERVICE

***817. Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to lay on the Table of the House the audited Balance Sheet of the D.T.S. for the period ending 31st March, 1949?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The audit of the accounts of the Delhi Transport Service for the period ending 31st March, 1949, has not yet been completed. A statement showing the profit and loss account for the period from 14th May 1948 to the 31st March, 1949, prepared departmentally

by the Delhi Transport Service is, however, laid on the Table of the House (See Appendix XX, annexure No. 5).

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is there loss or profit? What is the situation?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member can study the statement laid on the Table.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is not necessary. The Honourable Minister can oblige the House by looking up the statement himself.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Net profit of Rs. 10,24,791-10-1.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Out of this profit, is it contemplated to reduce passenger fares?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Yes, Sir. Improvement of the service first and reduction of fares next.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: When calculating this profit, have Government taken depreciation and interest charges into account?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 5,71,040-6-5 has been allowed for depreciation and interest charges.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: How much for interest charges?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Rs. 31,668-6-5 for interest charges.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will any portion of this profit be shared by staff and the employees?

No answer, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid we are going into too many details. Next question.

TRANSPORT FOR FENCING WIRE

***818. Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the request of the Superintendent of Tarai and Bhalar area Government Estate Nainital, for the transport of fencing wire from Tatanagar to Bagpur Railway Station (on O.T.R.) has not been complied with during the last two years?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Supply and Movement Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, also requested the Chief Controller of Railway Priorities for the transport of the wire in the month of August, 1949?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative what steps do Government propose to take to expedite the despatch of the said wire to Bagpur?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Presumably, reference is to Bazpur and not Bagpur as there is no such station. No indents for despatch of such consignments from Tatanagar to Bazpur appear to have been received by the B. N. Railway.

(b) Yes.

(c) On receipt of the request referred to in part (b), the Chief Controller of Railway Priorities had issued orders to Regional Controller of Railway Priorities to assist the movement in an effective priority, and then special arrangements were made by the Transportation Manager, B. N. Railway, to accept these consignments, when offered *via* Bareilly outside the transshipment quota.

RAILWAY GATE ON MURADABAD AND NAINITAL KACHA ROAD NEAR BAGPUR STATION

***819. Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have received a representation for the widening of the Railway gate on Muradabad and Nainital 'Kacha Road' near Bagpur station from the Superintendent Tarai and Bhalar area Government Estate Nainital?

(b) Is it a fact that tractors when attached with harrows cannot pass through that gate?

(c) Is it also a fact that the request has been turned down?

(d) If the replies to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to re-consider the matter, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No. The request has been agreed to and the work is in hand.

(d) Does not arise.

CONTROLLER OF PRINTING (E.P. RAILWAY)

***820. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the printing business of the Eastern Punjab Railway is not controlled by the Controller of Printing;

(b) whether the Controller of Stationery and Printing of the Eastern Punjab Railway is the final authority in respect of their printing business; and

(c) Is it a fact that the officer concerned is interested in some printing concerns?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The printing business of the E. P. Railway is not controlled by the Controller of Printing, Government of India, New Delhi.

(b) There is no such designation as "Controller of Printing and Stationery" on the E. P. Railway. Presumably, the question relates to the Officer Incharge of Printing on the Railway who is designated as Assistant Controller of Stores (Printing and Stationery) and is under the administrative control of the Administrative Officer 'Stores'.

(c) No.

AIR SERVICE BETWEEN DELHI AND ASSAM

***821. Shri G. S. Guha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any direct Air Service from Delhi to Assam has been started and if not, when it is expected to be started?

(b) Is there any proposal of extending the night air mail service to Assam?

(c) Is the new Gauhati Aerodrome likely to be completed in 1950 and made suitable for night flying?

(d) Is there any proposal of constructing an aerodrome at Shella in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills in Assam and if so, when is it likely to be completed?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) No, Sir. A company was authorised by the Air Transport Licensing Board to operate a direct

air service from Delhi to Assam, but it has not found it possible to do so. No definite date for the commencement of such a service can be given.

(b) No, Sir. The existing day service to Assam connects the Night Air Mail Service at Calcutta and is virtually an extension of the Night Air Mail Service.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) At the request of the Government of Assam, sites in the vicinity of Shella were recently inspected but no proposal to construct an air strip there has emerged.

Shri G. S. Guha: What is the reason for the delay in the construction of the Gauhati aerodrome?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Paucity of funds.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: An assurance was given last April that an air service would be operated from Delhi to Assam. May I know how far that assurance has been implemented?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Government has issued a licence to a company, but it has not been able to undertake the service.

SOURCE OF KEROSENE AND PETROL

***822. Shri G. S. Guha:** (a) With reference to part a (3) of his reply to Starred Question No. 412 of the 8th December 1949, will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether the Cachar oil field, e.g., Masimpur, is also a source of petrol in Assam?

(b) What progress has been made in the boring for oil in the Tripura State?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No oil is at present produced from Masimpur; the area is being prospected by the Burmah Oil Company. For the present, therefore, Digboi is the only source of petrol in India, Attock having gone to Pakistan.

(b) Progress by the Burmah Oil Company was held up so far pending discussions between the Company and Government on certain points. These have almost been finalised and the Petroleum Concession Rules are likely to be issued very shortly. It is hoped that as soon as these rules are issued the Burmah Oil Company will go forward with the prospecting for oil.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Has there been prospecting of oil in any other place near about the Assam-Burma frontier?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No, Sir.

Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha: Is there any prospect of finding oil in Assam in any areas other than Digboi?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Survey parties are already in Assam for the current field season and if they are able to strike any oil, the information will be laid on the Table.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: May I know whether the Burmah Oil Company pays any royalty on the oil it has prospected or about to prospect.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Royalty will be paid only when the oil is found.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

*823. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the students in the various agricultural institutions in India;

(b) the percentage of such students in respect of the total number of students in India;

(c) the percentage of people depending upon and engaged in agriculture, in India; and

(d) whether Government propose to take up the matter of agricultural education on a mass scale?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) About 5,000.

(b) 0.02.

(c) About 68 per cent.

(d) The question has been examined by the University Commission whose recommendations are being considered by Government.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What percentage of these students have utilised their knowledge for furthering agriculture* and what percentage are job-hunters?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not in a position to give that information.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: What assistance do the Central Government propose to give to the Provincial Governments to start their own agricultural colleges?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It will depend upon the requests which the Provincial Governments make as to what help they want.

THE SURVEY OF INDIA

*824. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state when the last Survey of India took place?

(b) Has that survey been implemented by publishing maps of all parts of the country?

(c) If not, by what time is the whole work to be completed?

(d) Is there any new project of Survey under operation?

(e) Do Government contemplate to publish maps of Free India in Hindi?

(f) If so, when are they expected to be published?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (c). Survey work has two stages:

(i) Observation and fixation of geodetic data which are essential for the framework in which topographical and other surveys can be correctly put on the earth surface.

(ii) Topographical surveys of the entire area and publication of maps and their up-to-date maintenance by periodical revision.

(i) has been practically completed.

(ii) is a continuous process. Maps must be revised in order to keep them up to date. Some areas surveyed on small scale have to be surveyed again on a larger scale as the country develops.

(b) Out of a total area of nearly twelve lakh square miles comprising the Indian Union, an area of about 1,81,000 square miles has to be still surveyed on modern scientific lines. Maps of practically the whole area already surveyed have been incorporated in modern style maps.

(d) 26 survey projects connected with irrigation dam sites are in hand in addition to survey of border areas between India and Pakistan.

(e) and (f). Experimental measures for publishing certain maps in Hindi have already been undertaken.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Are Government aware of a gentleman by name Swami Pranavananda who has prepared a map of the Himalayan region, including the Manasarowar area, and published that map with the approval of the Survey of India?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I can allow that question. It is a suggestion for action and the Honourable Member may communicate with the Minister privately.

TRACTORS FOR RAJASTHAN

*825. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state how many tractors have been allotted to Rajasthan by the Central Tractor Organisation?

(b) What are the terms and basis on which this allotment is made?

(c) Will they be available to the peasants for reclaiming their lands and if so, on what terms?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). The Central Tractor Organisation has been carrying on mechanical cultivation operations in Alwar and Bharatpur with the help of 125 light tractors since July 1948. The expenditure on the operations is being partly recovered from the cultivators and partly shared between the Ministry of Rehabilitation and the Government of Rajasthan. The tractors are available to any provinces and States which may want to purchase them.

(c) The tractors purchased in connection with mechanical cultivation operations in Alwar and Bharatpur are light cultivation tractors and are not suitable for reclamation operations.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, whether Government keeps an eye on the working of these tractors and whether they are satisfied that the average service given by the tractors is good enough?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: So far as the Central Tractor Organisation is concerned, in my opinion, the results are very satisfactory and the International Bank experts also found them to be satisfactory. With regard to the work in the provincial sphere, we will endeavour to take more care as to how the tractors are working.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know the average acreage ploughed by a tractor?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It will depend upon the size of the tractor—its horse-power.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: May I know the total number of tractors given to the States and States Unions?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have already laid a detailed statement on the Table of the House the other day. I am prepared to give any further information that the Honourable Member desires.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Will Government be prepared to loan these tractors to Producers co-operative societies?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is a matter for the Provincial Governments to decide. It is open to the Provincial Governments to hire out the tractors and I think in some provinces they are doing so.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What is the out-turn of these tractors, as compared with the out-turn promised by the manufacturers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The new tractors are being used only now. The Central Tractor Organisation was till now using the old secondhand tractors which had worked for a number of years under the Army. We will be able to give the exact acreage of work turned out by the new tractors where they come into operation and this will be in the coming season.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What has been the result up till now?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: About two-thirds roughly.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

ALLOTMENT OF MONEY FROM CENTRAL ROAD FUND TO RAJASTHAN

***826. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state how much money has up till now been allotted to Rajasthan from the Central Road Fund for the year 1948 and 1949 separately?

(b) How much petrol is annually allotted to Rajasthan and on what basis?

(c) How much more would it get now by the Government's new resolution on the subject?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Allotments to States now constituting Rajasthan, from revenues credited to the Central Road Fund up to the year 1946-47, aggregated Rs. 21,01,000. Allotments for the years 1947-48 and 1948-49 have not yet been made. As the final figures relating to revenue creditable to the Road Fund for these years are not yet available, it is not possible at this stage to indicate what allotments would be made for these years.

(b) Petrol quotas are granted on quarterly and not on yearly basis and they vary from quarter to quarter according to the total availability of petrol for civil consumption and the number of vehicles on the road in each territorial unit. With the formation of Rajasthan the sum total of the petrol quotas granted to the various states forming the union became the petrol quota of Rajasthan. For the July-September and the October-December 1949 quarters, the quotas amounted to 788,000 and 821,000 gallons respectively.

(c) Apparently, the Honourable Member is referring to the Resolution recently adopted by this House for increasing the Reserve in the Central Road Fund from 15 to 20 per cent. This resolution has no effect on the quota

of petrol for Rajasthan, but it will enable Rajasthan to get a greater share than before of the money in the Reserve in the Road Fund. How much greater this share would be cannot be stated at once as the competing demands of other areas have also to be taken into account.

EFFECT OF ECONOMY CUT ON TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN WEST BENGAL

***827. Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed economy cut in the budget will affect the remodeling of telephone system in the city of Calcutta and extension of telephone connections in other exchanges in the province of West Bengal; and

(b) whether Government have under contemplation any scheme for raising capital for the development work in connection with the telephone system in West Bengal?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) No, not so far as the city of Calcutta is concerned.

The telephone expansion programme for 1949-50 for the rest of the Province of West Bengal provided for the opening of eight new exchange systems and the extension of ten existing systems. On account of the economy cut, the programme has been reduced to the opening of four new exchanges and extension to six existing exchanges only. No telephone expansion is proposed in the Province of West Bengal except in Calcutta for the year 1950-51.

(b) A scheme of the type is under consideration.

MHOW ROAD (IN RAJASTHAN AND MADHYABHARAT)

***827-A. { Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:
Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo:**

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the National Highway Nasirabad-Mhow Road (in Rajasthan and Madhyabharat) is in a dilapidated condition?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in this direction and when?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) and (b). The Nasirabad-Mhow Road is not a National Highway. There are two road routes between Nasirabad and Mhow. One is via Neemuch and Ratlam; and the other via Kotah and Ujjain. The latter is motorable throughout; but the former is not motorable in the section in Rajasthan between Neemuch and Nasirabad. On both routes, small sections of the road are maintained by the Central Public Works Department; and my information is that those sections are in good condition and are adequately maintained. The maintenance of the other sections of the roads is the concern of the Unions of Rajasthan and Madhyabharat.

CHAMBAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT IN RAJASTHAN

***827-B. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the Chambal Hydro-electric Project in Rajasthan;

(b) whether it has been located at Rawatbhatta or in Kotah Division;

(c) why this site was selected and on what basis;

- (d) what would be the total estimated cost of the Project;
- (e) when it will be completed; and
- (f) how much land is expected to be irrigated and how much power is likely to be generated thereby?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). The Chambal Hydro-electric Project comprises two dams, one at Rawatbhatta (called Mewar Dam) and the other near Kotah (called Kotah Dam). The scheme has not yet reached the Government of India in its final form. The information now being given should therefore be regarded as tentative.

(c) The selection of sites depends and has been done, on topographical and technical grounds.

(d) The cost of Rawatbhatta Dam has been estimated at Rs. 5.7 crores; the Kotah Dam is under investigation and its cost has not yet been estimated.

(e) The work on the project has not yet started, the date when it will be completed is not yet known.

(f) The Rawatbhatta Dam will provide irrigation for 10,000 acres of lands in Rajasthan. It will also be possible to irrigate additional lands in Rajasthan and some land in Madhyabharat, if a separate barrage is constructed downstream of the Kotah Dam. 37,500 KW of power is expected to be generated at Rawatbhatta Dam and about 31,800 KW at the Kotah Dam.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (PROFIT)

***827-C. Sjt. Kuladhar Chaliha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the profit made from the working of the Post offices in India during the years 1947-48 and 1948-49;

(b) the profit made from the working of the telegraphs and telephones systems in India during the same period;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of the United Kingdom have always adopted the principle of working the post offices on a no profit and no loss basis;

(d) if so, whether the Government of India propose to adopt the same principle for the benefit of the people in this country; and

(e) whether it is a fact that in the United States of America Postal Departments work at a deficit always and they are to explain only when they fall short of the estimated deficit?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) 1947-48—Preparation-Loss of Rs. 10,30,367; Postpartition profit of Rs. 62,22,341. 1948-49—loss of 1½ crores of rupees.

(b) 1947-48—Prepartition-profit of Rs. 1,62,38,120; Postpartition-profit of Rs. 2,38,16,101.

1948-49—Profit of four crores of rupees.

(c) It is believed to be so, but Government have no reliable information.

(d) As will be apparent from the reply to (a), post offices in India are not running at a profit.

(e) Government have no information.

ASSAM'S LINK WITH TRIBAL AREAS BY ROAD AND RAIL

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam have recommended the need for constructing a military road connecting the settled districts of Assam with the tribal areas without having to pass through any portion of Pakistan;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no railway connection between Assam and the tribal areas; and

(c) if the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to construct this road?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) and (c). No such recommendation has been made to the Government of India. The question of constructing a military road does not arise.

(b) No. There is no Railway connection with the tribal areas.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT

30. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the total cost incurred so far by Government in reclaiming land for rehabilitating persons to be affected by the Hirakud Dam Project;

(b) the average cost of making ready for cultivation an average acre of each of the four classes of land in the Hirakud area;

(c) the average cost of excavating a tank or reservoir for irrigation in the Hirakud area; and

(d) the number of tanks or reservoirs actually excavated for irrigation in the Hirakud area?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Rs. 2,70,200.

(b) The approximate cost of preparing land for cultivation varies from Rs. 51 to Rs. 359 per acre depending on the quality of the land.

(c) The cost depends on the size of the tank or reservoir and the nature of the land to be excavated.

(d) One tank is reported to have been excavated with manual labour and three with bull-dozer.

RAILWAY FREIGHT (B. N. RAILWAY)

31. Shri R. L. Malviya: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amounts of revenue realised annually by Government as freight from coal despatched from the Manendragarh and Chirimiri stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway during the years 1940 to 1949?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The information desired by the Honourable Member is in respect of two specific stations. Station records from which such information is compiled, are not preserved for more than two years. The information, therefore, for the period prior to 1st April, 1947 is not now available. The amounts received annually as freight from coal despatched

from Manendragarh and Chirimiri stations during 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50 (upto October, 1949) have been as follows:

Station	Amount received by Government as freight from coal . (in Rs.)		
	1947-48.	1948-49.	April 1949 to October 1949.
Manendragarh	21,68,802	26,92,961	23,77,332
Chirimiri	61,18,271	67,29,386	37,58,317

SALE OF BRICKS

32. Shri Damoder Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of bricks by the kiln contractors without a permit is forbidden in Delhi and whether there are exceptions to this order;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the criteria for the grant of the permits and the authority competent to issue them; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of relaxing the restrictions and if so, in what cases?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes. The sale of bricks by the kiln contractors without a permit is forbidden in Delhi, except when required for approved Government works.

(b) Permits are issued for authorised structures only. They are issued by the Director of Rationing and Civil Supplies Delhi, on the production of a certificate from the Chairman, Delhi Improvement Trust, the Municipal Engineer, the Land and Development Officer, or a Registered Architect and in the case of Rural Areas the Tehsildar. In cases of minor repairs involving the use of Bricks, where there is no apprehension of their being used for unauthorised structures, permits are issued without such certification.

(c) It is proposed to relax the restrictions in the case of Rural areas where the question of construction being put up contrary to Municipal Laws and Regulations does not arise. A plan is being worked out to provide that bricks are available in rural areas without any restrictions and at the same time to see that this relaxation is not misused in places where there is a Municipal authority.

POST OFFICE CASH CERTIFICATES PURCHASED FROM POST OFFICES IN PAKISTAN

33. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India registered any claims of displaced persons from Pakistan with respect to Post Office Cash Certificates purchased from various Post Offices now in Pakistan;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether those claims were got verified from the Post Offices of issue;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the total amount payable against the claims thus verified;

(d) the total amount so far paid by Government against the verified claims;

(e) the reasons for the non-payment of balance if any, and in case nothing has been paid so far, the reasons for non-payment of the entire amount; and

(f) the steps Government propose to take for the payment of such sums?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

(e) They have not been presented for encashment; it is left to the option of the holder to discharge them or to continue them for the full period for which they can be kept under the rules.

(f) In view of the reply given to (e) this does not arise.

INCOME FROM MESSAGE RATE SYSTEM OF TELEPHONES

34. Shri P. Kunhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total income from telephones in Delhi, after the introduction of the present message rate system for a month, from the 16th November to 15th December, 1949, and the income for the corresponding period during 1948?

(b) What is the gain or loss for the same period viz., from 16th November to 15th December, 1949 in the other places where the message rate system has recently been introduced?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) The information required, namely, the total income of the Delhi Telephone District from 16th November to 15th December, 1949, is not yet available. The income from telephone rental and call charges of the Delhi District for the previous month, namely from the 16th October 1949 to 15th November 1949, was Rs. 1,51,300. The rent realised from telephone connections for the corresponding month in the previous year was Rs. 1,95,500.

(b) Comparing the same periods, viz., 16th October to 15th November during 1948 and 1949 for Poona and Bombay where message rates were introduced in February and May, 1949, there was an increase in revenue in the current year, the amounts being Rs. 8,854 for Poona and Rs. 34,000 for Bombay. At Amritsar, where the message rate was introduced a year ago, there was a drop in the revenue this year of Rs. 528 compared to the corresponding period of last year.

FLYING CLUBS

35. Shri P. Kunhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of flying clubs that exist in India at present and the places where they are located?

(b) Is there any proposal to open more flying clubs in India?

(c) Has any proposal to open a flying club in Cannanore (North Malabar) in order to facilitate quicker transmission of mails on the west coast, been considered and if so, with what results?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) I lay on the Table a statement giving the required information.

(b) Yes Sir. It is proposed to grant subsidies for the development of Flying Clubs at Dibrugarh (Assam), Allahabad and Mysore as soon as funds become available.

(c) No Sir.

STATEMENT

Number of Flying Clubs that exist in India and the places where they are located.

Subsidised Flying Clubs

- (1) Delhi Flying Club, Civil Aerodrome, New Delhi.
- (2) Bombay Flying Club, Juhu Aerodrome, Bombay.
- (3) Madras Flying Club, St. Thomas Mount, Madras.
- (4) Bengal Flying Club, Barrackpore, Calcutta.
- (5) Bihar Flying Club, Patna.
- (6) Orissa Flying Club, Bhubaneswar.
- (7) C.P. and Berar Flying Club, Nagpur.
- (8) Hind Provincial Flying Club, Lucknow.
- (9) Northern India Flying Club, Jullundur Cantt.

Non-Subsidised Flying Clubs

- (1) Assam Flying Club, Dibrugarh.
- (2) Mysore Flying Club, Bangalore.
- (3) Hyderabad Flying Club, Begumpet.
- (4) Jodhpur Flying Club, Jodhpur.

PEPPER RESEARCH STATION

36. Shri P. Kunhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of India have a proposal to open a pepper Research Station?

(b) If so, when is it likely to be opened and where?

(c) Do Government propose to take into consideration the facilities in and claims of, Taliparamba (North Malabar) where a fruit and pepper farm already exists?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). The Government of India have not considered any proposal or scheme so far for setting up a Pepper Research Station. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have, however, under consideration a scheme to subsidise the Government of Madras to set up such a station under the supervision of the Government of Madras. The site and other particulars have not yet been settled.

(c) Suitable sites will no doubt be considered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Government of Madras if and when the scheme materialises.

INDIA'S PRODUCTION AND REQUIREMENT OF COTTON

36-A. Kaka Bhagwant Roy: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the total production of cotton in India?

(b) What are the different varieties of cotton produced in India?

(c) What is the total requirement of cotton in India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The production in 1949-50 is estimated to be 28 lakh bales.

(b) The varieties are as follows: Bengals, Americans, Oomras, Hyderabad, Gaorani, Central India, Broach, Surti, Dholleras, Southern, Tinnevelles and Cambodias.

(c) On the basis of the actual consumption of cotton in India during the three years ending 1948-49, it is estimated that the requirements are as follows: For Mill consumption 41,10,000; For Extra-factory consumption 2,70,000. Total 43,80,000.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Thursday, 22nd December, 1949

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

*828. [WITHDRAWN.]

PREFABRICATED ONE-ROOM TENTS

*829. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether a prefabricated one-room tent made of hardboard is going to be introduced in India?

(b) Is it a fact that this tent would substitute the ordinary tent?

(c) What is the cost of such a tent and where are such tents going to be erected?

(d) Have Government given contract to any firm to manufacture such tents? If so, what is the name of the firm, and what is the rate at which the contract has been entered into?

(e) When are these tents likely to be completed and what is the total number of tents for which the contract has been given?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) and (b). Yes. Government have placed an order for 1,000 one-room hardboard huts to be imported from Sweden. The hardboard huts or tents, if one may so call them, will be used to provide temporary accommodation to displaced persons for residential and trade purposes.

(c) Rs. 470 per unit. A small number will be installed at suitable sites in Delhi.

(d) Yes, a contract has been placed with a Swedish firm, Aktiebolaget Sveaexport, Stockholm.

(e) Import and erection of these hardboard huts is likely to be completed before the end of the current financial year. Only 1,000 huts are being imported.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Will these tents be available for sale to the public also besides the refugees?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any contract has been placed or negotiations are being carried on with this firm for the construction of pucca timber houses also?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: So far as my Ministry is concerned, no such negotiations are going on.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether negotiations were being carried on for such houses with Finland, Denmark and Poland, and if so, whether any quotations were received from them?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No other negotiations are being carried on.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I want to know whether any tenders from Finland, Poland, etc., were invited for these houses.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No, Sir.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the average life of these prefabricated tents?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is expected to be at least five years.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I ask whether before placing orders, Government have examined the durability and utility of these tents, and if so, were Government satisfied?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Of course we were so advised by our experts, and therefore we placed the orders.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Was any sample tent exhibited here before the order was placed?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As a matter of fact, a specimen tent was erected out of materials available in India, and the specimen of timber was shown to our experts.

DISTURBANCES IN SUKKUR

*830. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the month of August 1949 a serious riot took place in Sukkur (Sind)?

(b) If so, what was the cause of the riot and how many were killed and how many were injured?

(c) Was any property looted and if so, what is the total damage caused?

(d) Have Government made any representation to the Government of Pakistan in this respect?

(e) Since the above incidents have any Hindus left Sind and if so, how many?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): (a) Yes. The riot started on the afternoon of the 31st July, 1949.

(b) The trouble started following the forcible occupation of a residential house of a Hindu by a Muslim refugee and the attempt of the police to evict the trespassers. The casualties officially reported are 11 dead and 29 injured.

(c) Yes, but the total damage caused by the riot is not known.

(d) Our High Commissioner approached both the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Sind immediately on hearing of the riot. He was informed of the official version of the incident by the Government of Pakistan.

(e) Yes. The total number of persons evacuated through the Transit Camp in Karachi from August upto the end of November, 1949 is 10,008. It is possible that some evacuees did not pass through the Transit Camp and some others left by the land route.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What was the response from the Pakistan Government to the representations of our High Commissioner?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Two of the Pakistan Ministers visited the scene of occurrence, expressed their regret for what had happened and assured the Hindus there that they would take all steps to prevent a recurrence of such things in the future.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I know whether the exodus of Hindus from Sind still continues, and whether conditions in Sind are returning to normal or not?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: There is some exodus still going on.

Shri S. Nagappa: What is the total loss of life and how many of the dead were Hindus?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The loss of life, according to the official version, is 11 dead.

Shri S. Nagappa: How many of them were Hindus?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: All, I think.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Has the news appearing in the *Hindustan Times* lately come to the notice of the Government in which it was mentioned that Hindus in Hyderabad (Sind) were being awakened at midnight and thrown out of their houses, and that their Gurdwaras and temples were being given to Muslims to be used as cattle sheds, etc.?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am afraid it is beyond the scope of the question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Sir, but it is mentioned there that the Government have protested.

Mr. Speaker: That might have been the news report.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I wanted to know whether Government has made any protest against the eviction of Hindus there.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: In view of the fact that the exodus of Hindus still continues, may I know what exactly are the reasons for that?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: There is a certain amount of panic among certain Hindus and they are attempting to get out from Sind to India. It is only a sort of a mental feeling on their part.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: May I draw the conclusion that the conditions there are other than satisfactory for Hindus, and say that it is not a case of fear complex?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is all a matter of inference.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know whether the Government of India made a protest to the Pakistan Government against the treatment which is being meted out to Hindus there?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Government are repeatedly making representations about cases that come to their notice.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What is the policy of Government regarding the remaining Hindus in Sind? Is it aimed at evacuating them or at making conditions there favourable for their stay?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Government would prefer that the Hindus who are there will stay there, but to such of them as are insistent on coming over, every facility would be given.

MARSHALL PLAN FOR THE FAR EAST

*831. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of the United States of America are considering a proposal to introduce Marshall Plan for the Far East?

(b) If so, have the Government of India made any suggestion in this connection?

(c) Has any discussion taken place in the House of Representatives of the United States of America in this respect?

(d) If the reply to part (b) above is in the affirmative, what is the nature of the suggestion made?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government of India are not aware of any such proposal.

(b) No.

(c) We have no information on this subject.

(d) No representation has been made.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that some spokesmen of our country, including our Ambassador to the U.S.A., have asked off and on for American aid to the under-developed areas of the Far East, in the course of their speeches?

Mr. Speaker: The question is very vague.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The first part of the Question is about American aid to the Far East. Is it a fact that our Ambassador to the U.S.A. has now and then, in the course of her speeches, asked for American aid for the development of under-developed areas of the Far East?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Put the answer to (b) was in the negative.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He must take the information for granted.

Shri H. V. Kamath: But what nature of aid has been asked for for these under-developed areas in the Far East?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: For a long time past it has been urged before the various organisations of the United Nations as well as elsewhere that the under-developed areas should be encouraged, should be helped, with technical and other assistance. That has been a common policy urged at the United Nations repeatedly.

If the Honourable Member is thinking of Marshall Aid, that is something entirely different. In the context of help to under-developed countries I also mentioned, when I was in the United States of America, that we welcomed such aid—technical or other—as could be given for the development of these under-developed areas. I do not understand what the Honourable Member is trying to enquire.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will such aid be free from all political, military or economic strings?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Obviously.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. One need not go into that.

MANDAPAM QUARANTINE CAMP

*832. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the letter which appeared in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 3rd August 1949 regarding the treatment meted out to Indians at the Mandapam Quarantine Camp?

(b) If so, what steps do Government intend to take in the matter?

(c) Have Government had any correspondence after the 15th August, 1947 in this matter with the Ceylon Government?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) The Government have seen a letter entitled "Ceylon Quarantine Camp" from a Ceylon Indian in Jaffna, which was published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 3rd August, 1949.

(b) and (c). In February, 1947, the Deputy Public Health Commissioner of the Government of India, accompanied by a senior officer of the External Affairs Ministry, visited the Quarantine Camp and submitted a report to the Government. The report was carefully considered and, after taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case, the Government of India came to the conclusion that the Quarantine Camp should be taken over and administered under their own control and with their own personnel, in a manner acceptable to the Government of Ceylon. There has been no official correspondence with the Government of Ceylon after the 15th August, 1947, on this subject; but a reference was made to them through our High Commissioner, to ascertain the approximate cost of acquiring the land, buildings and other equipment at the camp and the recurring expenditure on the general administration of the camp. As the proposal of taking over the camp involves an initial capital expenditure of about Rs. 26 lakhs and a recurring annual expenditure of nearly 4½ lakhs, the proposal has had to be kept in abeyance, for the present, in view of the imperative need for economy.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether this Camp is situated in the Indian soil and whether we receive any rent or whether the plot has been sold to the Ceylon Government?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: It is on Indian soil. I do not know whether the Ceylon Government pays any rent for it. But the land was taken by the Ceylon Government under a certain agreement with the Government of India.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Apart from the question of economy standing in the way of taking over this camp, am I right in understanding that the Government feel that this Quarantine Camp should be removed from our soil?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Apart from the reasons of economy, the question is: if this Camp is not in Indian soil, it would presumably be on Ceylon soil. Then our Government will have even less to do with it. We felt that by the Camp being here we could be more closely associated with it and see what is happening and if it were taken away to Ceylon soil, we would be completely out of touch.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: My question is: In view of the fact that this camp is situated on Indian soil, whether Government feel it justifiable that we should allow the kind of treatment that is meted out in this Quarantine Camp?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Obviously, not only Government feel but Government have always taken action and I think there have been some cases occasionally which we immediately followed up.

*333. [WITHDRAWN.]

SOAP INDUSTRY

*334. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether the All India Soap Manufacturers' Association has sent any representation to Government not to allow any foreign concerns to start soap manufacturing in South India?

(b) Has any application for such purpose been received from a foreign firm?

(c) If so, what is the name of the firm and what is the amount of capital to be invested?

(d) What is the consumption of soap in India and what is the indigenous production?

(e) What was the quantity of soap imported from foreign countries in 1947 and 1948 and in 1949 up to date?

(f) Is soda ash for soap manufacture available in sufficient quantities in India?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The present estimated consumption is 1,80,000 tons per annum. Indigenous production was as shown below:

1947 80,000 tons ;

1948 1,90,000 tons including 474 tons of medicated soap ;

1949 (First nine months) 90,236 tons.

(e) 1947-48—517.25 tons; 1948-49—183.05 tons; 1949 (April to October)—105.7 tons.

(f) Yes, Sir. For the production of soap, the chemical generally used is not soda ash, but caustic soda. Soda ash is mixed by some manufacturers for making cheap quality soaps.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is caustic soda still being imported for this purpose.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that one of the biggest soda ash

producing factories of India situated in Bombay province has had to close down on account of large imports of soda ash under O.G.L.?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That does not arise out of this question.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Yes, under (f).

Mr. Speaker: It is an old story now.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether there is any proposal to stop imports of foreign soap?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have said that we have imported 105.7 tons of foreign soap during April-October, 1949. This half year we have not made any provision for imported soap at all.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Is caustic soda a controlled commodity?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir.

WHITE AUSTRALIA POLICY

†*335. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Australia has passed an Act for the purpose of deporting every Asian including Indians from Australia?

(b) How many Indians are there in Australia?

(c) To what extent do the provisions of this Act apply to them?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) The Honourable Member probably has in mind the war-time Refugees Removal Act, 1949, which came into force in Australia on 12th July, 1949. This Act provides for the removal from Australia of certain persons who entered that country as refugees during the period of hostilities in the last war. The Act does not apply exclusively to Asiatics.

(b) According to the 1947 Census, there are 2,480 Indians in Australia and most of them have been naturalized as Australian citizens.

(c) No Indian in Australia is affected by the provision of this Act.

STONES AND JEWELS

*336. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of precious stones and jewels imported into India during the year 1948-49;

(b) the amount of import duty collected from these imports;

(c) the total amount of precious stones and jewels exported from India; and

(d) the export duty realised, if any, during the year 1948-49?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The total value of precious stones and pearls, unset, imported into India during the year 1948-49 was Rs. 78 lakhs, while the total value of jewellery imported during the same year was Rs. 1.64 lakhs.

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(b) The import duty collected on these imports during the year 1948-49 amounted to Rs. 90,741.

(c) The total value of precious stones and pearls, unset, exported from India during the year 1948-49 was Rs. 4.64 lakhs, while the total value of jewellery exported during the same year was Rs. 1.28 lakhs.

(d) These articles are not liable to export duty.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know how many of these precious stones come from Indian mines?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have given figures of imports of these stones. I have nothing to do with the Indian mining of stones.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether Government derive any royalty from the value of the stones that come from Indian mines?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That question should be put to my Honourable Friend the Minister for Works, Mines and Power.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the fact that these precious stones and pearls are luxury goods, do Government propose to increase the import duty on them?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact, the articles that I have mentioned are no longer permissible for import, but I should like to add that the figures I have given of imports of these articles are considerably less than the value represented by the imports of these articles in previous years. I should also like to remind the House that there is a fairly important cottage industry, namely, the lapidary industry as it is called, which is dependant upon the importation of rough and uncut stones, pearls and others, and there is a considerable complaint among them that they are unemployed by reason of the restricted import policy in this matter.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the import duty on these goods *ad valorem*?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Precious stones unset and imported uncut and pearls unset—free because they are raw materials of this cottage industry. Precious stones unset and imported cut—that is not raw material—30 per cent. *ad valorem*. Jewellery and jewels—60 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that import of these diamonds for finishing purposes was fairly large from France before these restrictions were imposed?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes; that is so. Apart from other countries, I think, Amsterdam was also a very important centre.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Will Government consider the feasibility of encouraging this import, because that would bring revenue to the country and employment to some of our countrymen?

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

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: May I know whether Government is aware that large quantities of diamonds are imported by the French Settlement of Pondicherry and from there smuggled to India? Were any representations made to the French Government in this connection?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I think this is nothing very new. This art of smuggling is a very old one, my Honourable Friend I think lives very near that area. I am prepared to accept his statement as regards the facts that he has mentioned. I am sure the question of making representations to the French Government is always kept in view.

TRADE WITH RUSSIA

*837. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of trade between Russia and India during the year 1948-49;

(b) the basis of trade between these two countries; and

(c) whether the value of this trade will increase or decrease during the current year?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The total value of trade between Soviet Russia and India during the year 1948-49 amounted to Rs. 798 lakhs imports worth Rs. 262 lakhs, and exports worth Rs. 536 lakhs.

(b) This trade was partly on the basis of barter and partly on the basis of payment.

(c) The total value of Indo-Russian trade during the four months ending the 31st July, 1949 rose by 15 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of 1948. In the present circumstances, however, it is not possible to forecast what the future trend of trade may really be. So far as food-grains—an important item in our imports from Soviet Russia—are concerned prospects are not encouraging because that country has increased the prices by 44 per cent. since devaluation.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, in which area Russia falls—soft currency area or hard currency area?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As I have already indicated, there have been several agreements most of which were on the basis of barter. No question of payment is, therefore, involved. But for purposes of foreign trade calculations Russia is a soft currency country.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, whether books published in Russia forms an item of import?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not find any mention of books in the papers that I have got before me.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Is any petrol or kerosene imported from Russia?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What quantities of these products are being imported?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Well, they used to form the largest single item in the past, but of late food-grains have, I think, superseded them and now mineral oils do not form any significant portion of our import trade from that country, as far as I have been able to find out.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What are the principal articles exported from India to Russia?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The principal articles exported are jute, tea, shellac and a few other commodities.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know, Sir, what is the balance of trade with Russia?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have already given the figures.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Which are the commodities obtained from Russia on barter basis?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Wheat, mostly. There were three agreements, actually. Under one it was wheat as against tea and under the others wheat as against raw jute and castor oil.

NON-MUSLIM PRISONERS IN PAKISTAN

***838. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether all non-Muslims confined in West Pakistan Jails have been brought to India;

(b) if not, what is the number still left behind; and

(c) whether any negotiations are still going on to bring them to India?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) 4,080 Hindu and Sikh prisoners exchangeable under the Inter-Dominion Agreement have already been transferred to India. A few cases of exchangeable prisoners not having been exchanged have however been reported.

(b) The exact number of Hindu and Sikh prisoners transferable under the Inter-Dominion Agreement and still in West Pakistan Jails, is being ascertained from the Government of Pakistan.

(c) Correspondence is in progress with the Government of Pakistan for arranging a supplementary exchange for such prisoners.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have we got any of these prisoners in our jails whom we contracted to transfer to Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There may be some.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is our Government pursuing the matter of further exchange of prisoners in some conference to be held some time in the near future?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There is no necessity of convening a Conference. The principles have already been agreed upon and we are pursuing the matter by correspondence.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether the work of ascertaining particulars about the Indian prisoners in Pakistan is left to the Pakistan Government, or is there any method of checking it up through our own agency?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is not possible to get the information except through the help of the Pakistan Government. Of course, when any information is received we pass it on to our High Commissioner or Deputy High Commissioner for verification.

Shri S. Nagappa: Out of the prisoners that are left behind, how many are long term prisoners and how many are short term prisoners?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As I have already stated, I have not got the exact information. If any particular cases are brought to our notice, we can pursue them.

DISPLACED MUSLIMS

***839. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of Muslims who were displaced during the disturbances of 1947, but who did not move out of India, and have since come back to their residences?

(b) How many of these have got back their properties?

(c) Of what value are these properties?

(d) Have any loans and grants also been given to these people? If so, what is the amount?

(e) Were these amounts spent out of the money earmarked for rehabilitation of refugees or has this amount been charged to any other fund?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) to (c). Complete information is not available.

(d) About Rs. 12 lakhs have been advanced as loans to displaced Muslims who did not move out of India.

(e) The amount has been spent out of the money earmarked for rehabilitation of displaced persons.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the total approximate value of the properties left behind by Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know, Sir, whether it arises out of this question? This question only relates to Muslims who were displaced because of the disturbances and did not leave India.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Part (c) refers to property.

Mr. Speaker: Let us proceed to the next question.

RESTORED MUSLIM PROPERTY

***840. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of displaced Muslims who went over to Pakistan on account of disturbances and who have subsequently returned to India to settle down permanently?

(b) Have any such persons been rehabilitated and have their lands been restored to them? If so, what is the total area so restored?

(c) Was any land restored to Muslims which was allotted to non-Muslim refugees and have any refugees been evicted from such lands?

(d) If so, what is the number of refugees so evicted and what is the area of land from which they were evicted?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The number of evacuee Muslims is estimated at 58 lacs. Information is not available as to the number of Muslims who returned subsequently to settle down in India permanently. It is, however, estimated that about 2½ lacs of Muslims returned to India before the introduction of Permit System. Between the 19th July, 1948, i.e., the date on which the Permit System was introduced and the 31st October, 1949 nearly 3,000 permits for permanent resettlement in India were issued to Muslims. The number of persons actually entering India will be much larger as often a whole family is covered by a permit.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). As a rule no land has been restored to returning Muslims if it had been allotted to and occupied by displaced persons. As such no question of eviction of displaced persons arises.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has this policy not prejudiced the interests of the refugees who have got allotments here?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No, Sir.

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Shri H. V. Kamath: Do the figures given by the Honourable Minister of State refer to Muslims who have returned to India from Western Pakistan only, or they also include Eastern Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: This relates only to Western Pakistan. No figures for Eastern Pakistan are available. There was only exchange of population between West Pakistan and East Punjab.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are they still returning for settlement?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Some Muslims apply for permits for returning to India and their cases are scrutinised and permits issued, in cases considered suitable.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that a number of these displaced Muslims are waiting on the border of Pakistan and they are not being allowed to enter Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Some of them who wanted to go to Pakistan have not been allowed to go and they are in Jullundur Camp, maintained by the Deputy High Commissioner for Pakistan.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How many are they?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have not got the information; but if the Honourable Member asks for it, I will supply it to him.

LAHORE REFUGEE CAMP

*841. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the Refugee Camp in D.A.V. College, Lahore is still being maintained by the Government of India?

(b) How many inmates are there just at present?

(c) What facilities are provided there for their safety and maintenance?

(d) How many refugees have been brought to India from this camp during the months of August, September and October, 1949?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes.

(b) The average daily number of inmates is 55 including temporary visitors from India.

(c) For the safety of inmates eight West Punjab Police Constables with one Assistant Sub-Inspector have been provided by the West Punjab Government. In addition there is one Sub-Inspector and three Police Constables of the East Punjab Police. For their maintenance, free supply of basic rations and spices according to fixed scale, and other genuine needs such as blankets for use during stay at the Camp, medical attendance and cooking facilities, etc., are provided.

(d) 1,292 displaced persons have been brought to India during August, September and October, 1949.

KASHMIR REFUGEES IN LAHORE

*842. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of refugees from Kashmir were brought to the D.A.V. College Camp in Lahore and have been staying there for more than a year?

(b) Do they desire to come over to India?

(c) If so, why have no arrangements been made for their evacuation to this country?

(d) Is it a fact that they have no equipment of clothes or beddings for the winter season?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): (a) 208 Kashmiri refugees (including recovered abducted women and children) were brought by Pakistan authorities, from the area under the operational control of their forces in Kashmir, to Lahore, in March, 1949. All of them except five were released and evacuated to India in the last week of October, 1949. These five were three adults and two children who died in transit camps in Lahore.

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

COMMODITY COMMITTEE

*843. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the names of commodity committees under the Ministry of Industry and Supply; and

(c) whether any commodity committees have received subsidies from the Government of India in the years 1948-49 and 1949-50 and if so, how much?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The Indian Coffee Board, The Indian Rubber Board, and The Central Silk Board.

I presume the Honourable Member means statutory bodies and not Advisory Committees.

(b) The Central Silk Board received a grant of Rupees Five lakhs in 1949-50.

HAND-LOOM INDUSTRY

*844. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what steps are being taken to promote handloom industry?

(b) Is free inter-provincial movement of handloom cloth allowed at present?

(c) Is unlicensed export of that commodity permitted to dollar and sterling areas?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to part (c) of the Starred Question No. 338 by Shri C. Subramaniam.

(b) Yes.

(c) Export of handloom cloth is allowed under licence. But licences are issued freely without any restrictions.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether it is a fact that handloom weavers, in most cases are not getting yarn properly?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is not so; they cannot purchase yarn because of large stocks already in their hands.

Shri S. Nagappa: Are Government aware that large stocks of handloom cloth are not finding a good market in India, and may I know what steps Government have taken to see that these stocks of handloom cloth get a proper market?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I dealt with this question in the statement which I have already placed before the House, and also the steps which Government have taken in the matter.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING

*845. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state what progress has been made in regard to the provision of housing facilities for workers in the Textile, Coal, and Steel industries?

(b) Is priority for housing materials given for this class of construction?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Some progress is being made towards providing housing facilities for coalminers, but by no means adequate progress. Due to financial stringency housing schemes have been held up seriously.

(b) Priority for housing materials is accorded to the textile and steel industries. In the collieries, the demands for maintenance and development get the first priority and housing materials next.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether it is a fact that some houses constructed for the workers were allotted to the refugees in East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have no information, but as far as I can say, I think that might not be the case.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: May I know what the Honourable Minister means by financial stringency? Is the money for housing to be raised from the mines areas, as a welfare fund, or is it to be contributed by the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: As the Honourable Member knows, the question relates to three industries and not only to the coal industry. So far as the coal industry is concerned, I have already stated that some progress has been made, though it is not adequate.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: May I know how many houses were promised by the Government for industrial labour and what percentage of that number has Government built?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, we announced a scheme for a million houses during the next ten years; but due to financial stringency, the whole scheme has practically been held up. Some progress has been made only in the case of coal miners, and 1,300 houses have already been built, and 300 quarters are under construction. As regards other industries, practically no progress has been made.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Have the Government any plan for housing the tea garden workers?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have got all the schemes, but they have been held up for want of finance.

WOOL (IMPORT)

*846. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the total price of raw-wool and woollen cloth imported during the current year up to date?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The total value of raw wool and woollen cloth imported during the seven months ending with 31st October, 1949 was Rs. 2.55 lakhs and Rs. 1.54 lakhs respectively.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: What are the principal countries from which this wool and woollen cloth are imported?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Sir, I have the prior right.

Mr. Speaker: Perfectly right.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know from which countries this wool and the woollen cloth were imported, and may I know whether this has had an adverse effect on the indigenous industry?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: One question at a time, please.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may put one question at a time.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Yes, Sir, but I thought I might not get a chance later. My first question is about the countries from which this wool and woollen cloth were imported.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, so far as wool is concerned, our principal suppliers are the United Kingdom, Australia and for a comparatively small quantity, New Zealand. Pakistan comes after these.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How much money was received as duty on these imports?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I do not have the figures here; but if the Honourable Member is particular, I can supply him the information.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: What is the rate of that duty?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Did this importation have any adverse effect on the indigenous wool and the woollen textile industry?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as raw wool is concerned the Honourable Member realises that that is the raw material and so there can be no question of local industry being prejudiced. I think the Honourable Member refers to the woollen textiles, and so far as the policy of importation is concerned that was decided in consideration of the requirements in the country; I have not got the figures before me, but the indications are that for some time production of woollen textiles in the country has not been altogether highly satisfactory.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are there any restrictions placed now, on the import of woollen textiles?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as importation goes, there has been no importation from hard currency areas for more than a year now, and so far as soft currency countries are concerned, imports have been virtually closed down, but for licenses granted under the O.G.L. concessions.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know what has been the home production of woollen cloth during the corresponding period?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is a question which had better be put to my Honourable Colleague, the Minister for Industry and Supply.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Do we export any woollen textiles?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes to a small extent.

Shri Raj Bahadur: To what extent?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not have the figure.

SUBSTITUTE FOR FOOD GRAINS

†*847. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Central Food Technological Institute is carrying on any research work for discovery of good and nutritious substitutes for different varieties of food grains grown in India and if so, what results have so far been achieved thereby?

(b) Is it a fact that as a result of the said research, some substitute has been found for rice, and if so, what is this substitute and what will be the comparative merit of this substitute from the points of view of nutrition, taste, and cost of production?

(c) What steps, if any, have the Government of India so far taken or intend to take to popularise the use of the substitute or substitutes so discovered?

(d) What research if any, has been carried on for discovering a substitute for soya beans as a raw material for manufacture of vegetable oil and with what results?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes. The results have been encouraging.

(b) Synthetic rice has been produced on a laboratory scale from maize. Research with tapioca combined with other grains is being conducted. The substitutes produced will have the same or better nutritional value than rice. Arrangements are being made to set up a pilot plant for large-scale production. The cost has not yet been worked out, but as the materials used are cheap and processing simple, it is anticipated that the finished product will be cheaper than rice.

(c) Government will take appropriate steps to popularise the use of these substitutes after successful results have been obtained.

(d) Vegetable milk and not oil is produced from soya beans. Research to produce vegetable milk from ground nuts is being conducted. The product is somewhat less nutritious than soya bean milk, but is cheaper to manufacture.

JUTE

*848. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian Jute Mills Association has informed the Bengal Jute Balers Association that the Mills under no circumstance would accept Indian jute against outstanding Pakistan jute contracts?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what repercussion will it have upon the price of Indian jute?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes, Government have seen some correspondence on the subject between the Indian Jute Mills Association and the Bengal Jute Dealers' Association, not the Bengal Jute Balers' Association.

(b) So far as Government can see, this matter can have no adverse effect on the price of Indian jute.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know the reason why the Indian Jute Mills Association is not prepared to take Indian jute in place of Pakistan jute?

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

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Well, these agreements are based upon very solemn formal contracts and I might tell my honourable friend that this is not a matter in which Government can interfere except by undertaking special legislation even if there be any justification for such interference.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know, Sir, whether there is any difference in prices, between Indian jute and Pakistan jute, that are paid by the Indian Jute Mills Association?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: There has hardly been any transaction with Pakistan of late and there is no use of making any comparison, and so far as Indian jute prices are concerned, they have been satisfactorily fixed.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether it is a fact that the wholesale export trade has been monopolized by the Indian Jute Mills Association?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not think that quite arises out of this question.

LOW GRADE COAL

*849. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what is the present policy of Government regarding the encouragement of the production of lower grade coal?

(b) Do Government propose to give an incentive to such production by re-examining the prices of Grade III coal and restoring them to their original level, in view of the complaints by the producers thereof that the cuts as imposed have reduced their prices to an uneconomic level?

(c) Have Government any plans for stimulating the use and facilitating the transport of lower grade coal and soft coke as suggested by the Rationalisation Sub-Committee of 1948?

(d) What steps have Government taken to induce the industries and the Railways to use more of low grade coal and with what success?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a), (b) and (d). The present policy of Government is to encourage the production of Grade III coal by encouraging its consumption for brick-burning purposes and for manufacturing soft coke. To this end, the Provincial allocation for BRK and soft coke has recently been increased very considerably. It was with the same object that the prices were reduced in April, 1949 to a level which Government do not consider uneconomic.

(c) The report of the Rationalization Sub-Committee is under examination.

Shri R. L. Malviya: May I know what the recommendations of the Rationalisation Sub-Committee are?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The report is under examination now. It deals with the question of conservation of metallurgical coal.

Shri R. L. Malviya: May I know, Sir, what steps are being taken to discourage the consumption of metallurgical coal by the Railways and encourage the consumption of coal?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The new locomotives, I believe, will solve the question to some extent. The matter is now being discussed with the Railway Ministry.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Are they consuming any third-class coal?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I think such coal used is small but they are mainly concerned with higher grade coal.

WAGON ALLOCATION FOR 'B.R.K.' COAL

*850. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Coal Commissioner has introduced a new wagon allocation programme from September, 1949 for 'BRK' coal at five times the basis prevailing in November, 1948?

(b) Are Government aware that while the revised programme has been implemented in the case of about 133 collieries, some 148 collieries have received supplies at considerably less than the revised programme, about 15 collieries have received at much more than what they are entitled to under this programme and some 96 collieries have been altogether excluded from the benefit of this revised programme for 'BRK' coal?

(c) If so what is the cause of this discrepancy in distribution of wagons for 'BRK' coal?

(d) Are Government aware that there is great resentment among the producers of 'BRK' coal on account of this discrepancy?

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

(b) and (c). As soon as it became clear that the Railways were in a position to offer wagons in excess of indents from collieries, the Provinces were asked to submit their *ad hoc* demands on the basis of 5 times the BRK programme for November, 1948. Since the Provincial demands did not come in at the same time, some collieries were naturally left out at the beginning, but this has since been rectified and sanctions on all collieries have been issued except in the case of 52 collieries which will also receive their share as further Provincial demands come in. No excess sanction has been issued in favour of any colliery.

(d) The misapprehension, if any, was removed by a reply given by the Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution) which was published in *The New Sketch*, dated 28th November, 1949, which was considered by the Journal itself as satisfactory.

Shri R. L. Malviya: May I know, Sir, that this reply published in the journal *The New Sketch*, dated 28th November, 1949 has been repudiated by the journal itself in its issue, dated 5th December, and it is further repudiated by one of the Members of the Advisory Committee, Mr. Jivan Das Arya?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Further reply may be given in due course, if necessary.

SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF WAGONS TO COLLIERIES

*851. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the procedure followed by the Coal Commissioner since July, 1949 in the allocation of 'special' supplies of wagons?

(b) How many wagons have been allocated by the Coal Commissioner under 'special' from 27th July to the end of October, 1949?

(c) Is it a fact that during the said period, a colliery with seven wagon basis has received a supply of four wagons only as 'special' while another colliery under the same pilot with one wagon basis has received 58 wagons?

(d) Is it also a fact that the alleged discrimination has been practised on a wide scale?

(e) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the comments on this alleged discriminatory allotment published in the *New Sketch* the coal organ of Dhanbad, in its issue dated the 14th November, 1949?

(f) Do Government propose to ascertain the correctness or otherwise of the allegation?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Special allotments are made by a Committee of three officers of the Coal Commissioners' organisation. The procedure followed is given in a statement laid on the Table of the House.

(b) 25,148 wagons against the total allotment of 323,578 wagons for the same period, i.e., 7.7 per cent. of the total allotment.

(c) The matter may be looked into if the name of the colliery is given.

(d) No discrimination has been made.

(e) Yes.

(f) A reply given by the Coal Transport Officer was published in the *New Sketch* on 28th November.

STATEMENT

Special allotments are normally made to absorb the surplus wagon capacity offered by the Railways at short notice. The wagon supply position on the E.I.R. showed an improvement since July, 1949, and to ensure an equitable distribution of special allotments, the collieries were requested through their Associations to submit applications in the prescribed form stating whether they were prepared to load on Sundays and other days without notice. Applications so received are entered in a separate register and special allotments are made in the order in which the applications are entered in the register, after taking into consideration—

- (i) offers received from collieries to load wagons irrespective of indents, grade and class of coal offered and pithead stocks;
- (ii) siding accommodation of the colliery concerned and surplus pilot capacity available;
- (iii) direction in which spare capacity exists; and
- (iv) demand of different grades and class of consumers.

Shri R. L. Malviya: May I know, Sir, that this statement has further been repudiated by the *New Sketch* on 5th December and will the Honourable Minister.....

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is putting the same question that he put before.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Sir, it is a separate question.

Mr. Speaker: The subject-matter is different.

Shri R. L. Malviya: The question is also different.

Mr. Speaker: But the repudiation is in the same issue.

Shri R. L. Malviya: No, Sir, this is a second issue.

Mr. Speaker: He may proceed.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Will Government hold an enquiry into the matter?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I have said, if any particular colliery is mentioned, I am prepared to look into it and I have stated what the procedure followed now is.

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Shri R. L. Malviya: There has been discrimination in 50 per cent. collieries.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if the Honourable Minister has received any complaint from any colliery about this discrimination?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No; nothing has come to me except this question.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is it a fact that a huge amount of coal is lying at the collieries?

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

COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

*852. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will participate in the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Conference to be held in Colombo in January, 1950; and

(b) whether Government have any information as to the agenda for the Conference?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) No formal agenda has been sent to us so far; nor is it usual to have a formal agenda for such conferences. Certain points have, however, been suggested for discussion when economic matters are considered.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, so far is there any indication to show whether this Conference will discuss only the foreign policy and cognate matters of the Commonwealth or whether it will also discuss the relations between the member States of the Commonwealth, on the one hand, and what still remains of the British Empire on the other. For instance, I am referring in particular to Malaya; it is not in the Commonwealth but it is in the Empire.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It will be difficult for me to deal with the Honourable Member's rather vague question about indications, etc. as I have said there is no formal agenda and no formal decisions have been arrived at at such Conferences. Each Member has a say on the situation in regard to any matters. I cannot say what a Member State may or may not say. When one discusses a large question, it may be looked at from any aspect, but, so far as I know, there is no particular subject of the kind mentioned by the Honourable Member to be discussed.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What, Sir, is the personnel of the Indian Delegation to this Conference?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It has appeared in the Press. I will state it. Apart from me, the others are certain officials, the Additional Secretary, Shri Dutt, two or three finance officers; I think they are Mr. Ambegaokar Mr. Keith Roy. I hardly remember any one else.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any proposal to associate any Member of the Standing Committee for the Ministry of External Affairs with this delegation?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Why not?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT AND CONTROL) BILL, 1949

*853. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Industries and Supplies attended a luncheon meeting arranged for him by the National Association of Manufacturers, while he was in New York in connection with the Natural Resources Conference in August or September, 1949;

(b) whether it is a fact that on that occasion he made a statement on the Industries (Development and Control) Bill, 1949; and

(c) if so, what it was?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes Sir, sometime at the end of August, 1949.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) It was an after luncheon talk and no prepared speech was made. But the Director General remembers having made a statement more or less on the following lines:

"Much concern has been expressed in business circles in the U.S.A. about the provisions of a Bill recently introduced in the Indian Parliament for the regulation of industries on a uniform basis. The primary object of the Bill is to achieve co-ordinated development and to bring within the sphere of Central Government legislation a group of large scale industries which are of all India importance. They will mostly otherwise operate under the control and legislative authority of each of the Provincial Governments. The views of the public, especially of all those who are interested in the industrial development of India, have been elicited on the Bill. I am sure that these views when received will be given due consideration by Government; specially by the Select Committee of Parliament."

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that the Director General of Industry and Supply stated after the luncheon that this particular Bill was a party measure and that it should not be taken for granted that the Bill would actually become law?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have said what he did say.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that among the opinions.....

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: May I point out, Sir, that the Honourable Member was supplied a document which was subsequently withdrawn and I do not think it is fair that he should read from that document.

Shri H. V. Kamath: It was once circulated; why was it withdrawn?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is it the policy of Government that departmental heads should go about explaining the policy laid down by Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is not a question of discussing policy. Some officers who visited America attended a conference which was attended by industrialists and they explained what the policy of the Government was. There was nothing wrong in it.

Mr. Speaker: The policy or the substance of the Bill?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Policy.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is it the policy of Government that their heads of departments shall enter into controversies about the policies of Government?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It does not arise from the answer given.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it open to a government servant however high placed he may be, in any way to publicly criticise a measure introduced by Government in this House?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He assumes there has been criticism; there has been no criticism.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How is it that the Director General of Industry and Supply happened to be in America?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: He went there as a representative of India to an International Conference.

COCONUT OIL STABILISATION FUND

***854. Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state when and for what purpose the Copra and the Coconut Oil Stabilisation Fund was created?

(b) How much money was collected for, and spent out of the Fund?

(c) What is the amount of surplus money?

(d) Are Government aware that the unspent money of the Sugar Excise Fund and of the fund for the relief of groundnut cultivators, was transferred to the Indian Sugarcane Committee and the Indian Oil Seeds Committee respectively?

(e) Is it a fact that the Indian Central Coconut Committee applied for the transfer of the unspent money of the Copra and Coconut Oil Stabilisation fund to meet their increased expenditure on various development schemes?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Copra Purchase Scheme Reserve Fund was created in 1946 with a view to supporting the floor prices fixed by Government of indigenous copra and coconut oil, in the event of a fall in their prices.

(b) and (c). A sum of Rs. 18,79,580-9-4 was collected out of which nothing has been spent. The whole amount is thus surplus.

(d) The unspent balance of the Sugar Excise Fund has been transferred to the Sugar Committee. Fund for the relief of Groundnut Cultivators is still administered by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(e) Yes; Sir. The request of the Committee was not, however, acceded to.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Will Government reconsider an application of the Central Coconut Committee?

Mr. Speaker: That is a request for action.

Shri A. Karunakara Menon: Was not this fund due to the fact that India was not self-sufficient in coconuts, and as such, will Government revise its decision and give the fund to the Coconut Committee to improve the cultivation of coconuts?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid it is not permissible.

Shri A. Karunakara Menon: I want to know, Sir, is not this fund due to the fact that India is not self-sufficient in the matter of coconuts, and as such, will Government consider.....

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion.

Shri A. Karunakara Menon: It is not a suggestion. Will Government reconsider that decision.....

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Under what consideration was the Indian Sugar-cane Committee granted the unspent money of the Sugar Excise fund?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The condition on which that money was collected by Government was that it should be placed at the disposal of the Sugar-cane Committee for further development. That was not so in the case of coconut.

REQUISITIONING OF HINDU HOUSES BY EAST BENGAL GOVERNMENT

***855. Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Government of West Bengal have sent a note of protest to the Government of East Bengal regarding the requisitioning of a large number of Hindu houses specially the Harijan houses in East Bengal?

(b) Is it a fact that there is a large scale exodus of Hindus from East Bengal?

(c) If so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): (a) The Government of West Bengal have not sent to the Government of East Bengal any special protest on the general question of requisitioning of Hindu houses in East Bengal. They have, however sent protests in individual cases pointing out that such requisitioning tends to cause further exodus of the minority community from East Bengal.

(b) There was substantial exodus of Hindus from East Bengal, in June to August, 1949 due to economic causes but since September, 1949 the exodus is on a small scale, about 8 to 10 persons arriving at West Bengal interception centres at intervals of 5 to 7 days.

(c) As decided at the Inter-Dominion Conference of December, 1948, the Government of West Bengal have been trying to impress on the Government of East Bengal both by correspondence and at the periodical meetings of the Chief Secretaries and Premiers of the two Provinces the desirability of avoiding the requisitioning of houses of the Hindus in order to prevent the exodus of Hindus from East Bengal.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: What is the reply which the West Bengal Government received from East Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Communications sent on individual cases have not been replied to; but the West Bengal Government understand that the East Bengal Government have not yet completed assessing the compensation to be paid.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: May I know whether Government had any arrangement for their registration?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Registration of people coming out to West Bengal?

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: Yes.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: People coming out to West Bengal are checked at particular spots where the West Bengal Government have placed officers.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: May I know whether Government had made any arrangement for giving them relief?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: As to, those who come to West Bengal, some of them are given some relief. But, I cannot assure the Honourable Member that everybody who comes over gets relief.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: May I know if Government are aware that without applying the Evacuee Property Ordinance to East Bengal, the East Bengal Government, under the Rehabilitation Ordinances, are occupying very large numbers of Hindu houses? Not only Government, but the Pakistanis themselves are occupying forcibly many houses. If so, what is the Government of India going to do about them?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The Evacuee Property Ordinance in Pakistan has not yet been applied to East Bengal. There may be individual cases of the description given by the Honourable Member. Wherever such cases have come to the notice of the West Bengal Government, representations have been made by them.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Have Government any idea of the number of houses requisitioned in East Bengal and in what towns?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I cannot give the information about towns. But the East Bengal Ministry in answer to a question in their legislature, said that by the 30th June, 1949, altogether 5,024 in East Bengal had been requisitioned by the Government of East Bengal, of which 853 were owned by Muslims and the rest by Hindus. The estimate of our Deputy High Commissioner is that since June, they should have requisitioned about 1,000 more Hindu houses.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I enquire from the Honourable Minister if the Government of India has asked our Deputy High Commissioner in Eastern Pakistan to post them with the exact situation that is developing there, namely, that without enforcing the Evacuee Property Ordinance formally, they have been enforcing it in practice?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We receive full information in the periodical reports we get from the Deputy High Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: One question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

PERMITS FOR MIGRATION FROM PAKISTAN TO INDIA

***856. Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of persons who migrated to India from West Pakistan under permanent permits for re-settlement in Indian territory issued up to 31st October, 1949 but who later went back to Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: About 8,000. The number of persons actually entering India on these permits will be larger as often more than one person is covered by a permit.

So far as Government are aware no such person has gone back to Pakistan.

RAIDS FROM PAKISTAN

***857. Shri Nandkishore Das:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an infiltration by Pakistani raiders into the Indian Dominion territory near the village of Jalewal Kalan (Jammu) on 2nd December 1949;

(b) whether there was an engagement between Indian Union troops and these raiders;

(c) if the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the result of engagement; and

(d) whether the matter has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan and also with the U.N.C.I.P?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) After an exchange of fire which lasted for two hours and fifteen minutes, the Pakistan irregulars withdrew to their own territory. No casualties were suffered by our troops, but it is believed that approximately ten Pakistan irregulars were wounded or killed.

(d) No, but it was referred to the Pakistan Army authorities and the Chief of Staff to the Military Adviser to the U.N.C.I.P.

CLAIMS FOR MANIPUR'S LOSSES IN LAST WAR

***858. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report from Imphal appearing in the Calcutta edition of *The Statesman* dated the 25th November, 1949 to the effect that the claims for compensation for losses sustained by the people of Manipur in the last war on account of Japanese action have been included in India's reparation claims; and

(b) if so, whether the report is correct?

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

(b) Yes. A sum of about Rs. 72 lakhs representing claims of the Manipur State, was included in India's reparation claims against Japan.

PERMIT FOR MR. HABIBUR REHMAN TO ENTER GERMANY

***859. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Habibur Rehman, Indian Broadcaster from Berlin during the last war has been refused an entry permit for Germany;

(b) if so, on what grounds;

(c) whether the Indian Military Mission in Berlin has taken any steps in the matter; and

(d) if not, why not?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). We have no official statement on the subject, but the reasons for refusal are obvious. Mr. Habibur Rehman was closely associated with the Nazi regime in Germany, and is, therefore, a *persona non-grata* with the Allied powers in occupation of Germany. In view of this, any intervention on our part is not considered necessary and would be of little use.

FREE RATIONS TO DISPLACED PERSONS

*860. **Lala Achint Ram:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of displaced persons who have ceased to receive free rations?

(b) After the discontinuance of free rations, how many persons have been unable to find employment?

(c) Out of these persons who have been able to find work, how many are earning less than a rupee a day?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Supply of free rations was discontinued in the case of 4,65,000 displaced persons during the period 31st March—1st November, 1949. It is estimated that another 80,000 displaced persons have been derationed since.

(b) and (c). It is not easy to collect this information. Government are, however, subsidizing displaced persons at places where they cannot earn enough.

LOSS IN INCOME DUE TO CHANGE IN EXCHANGE RATE OF PAKISTAN CURRENCY

*861. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the approximate loss of income to the importers and exporters connected with the Indo-Pakistan trade, arising from the change in the exchange rate of Pakistan currency in relation to Indian Currency, and the approximate number of the persons affected thereby?

(b) Are Government aware that the majority of such persons are living on the Indo-Pakistan border and most of them are displaced persons?

(c) Are Government aware of the financial position of the displaced persons and do Government propose to pay special attention to their cases?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Government do not have the information required by the Honourable Member, nor do they consider it possible to collect the same with any degree of accuracy.

(b) Government are aware that some of the persons engaged in the import and export business with Pakistan are living on the Indo-Pakistan border and that some of them are displaced persons.

(c) Government are generally aware of the financial position of the displaced persons whose cases are already receiving their special attention.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO REFUGEES IN PROVINCES

*862. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India advised the Provincial Governments to make efforts to secure land in their Provinces to rehabilitate the displaced persons during the last thirty months?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how much of land in each of the provinces has been secured for this purpose, and how much of that land has been allotted to the displaced persons?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes. The Government of India also agreed to advance loans to Provincial and State Governments for giving taccari loans and other financial assistance to displaced persons.

(b) A statement giving information regarding the progress of resettlement of displaced persons on land in each Province and State is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Position re Allotment of Land to Displaced Persons in various Provinces and States

(1) **East Punjab and P.E.P.S.U.**—Evacuee land is being allotted on a quasi-permanent basis. The total evacuee area in East Punjab and P.E.P.S.U. is 50.86 lakh acres of which 38.37 lakh acres are cultivable. This area has been reduced to nearly 25 lakh standard acres of which more than 10 lakh acres have already been allotted under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme. Pending allotment under this scheme, land was allotted on a temporary basis.

(2) **United Provinces.**—In the colonization schemes at Ganga Khadar and Nainital Tarai, 26,250 acres will be utilised for the resettlement of displaced persons. So far 1,471 families have already been resettled in these areas. In addition, 8,929 acres of other culturable land have been utilized for the resettlement of 838 displaced families.

An area of 6,772 acres of cultivable evacuee land has been recently reported. Of this, 595 acres have already been allotted to 155 families and steps are being taken to allot the balance.

(3) **Central Provinces.**—Schemes have been sanctioned for the re-settlement of 1,200 families of displaced persons by reclaiming 13,250 acres of land in C.P. 124 displaced families had been settled under these schemes upto the end of October 1949. 1,100 acres of cultivable land has been declared as evacuee property and is being utilized for the resettlement of displaced persons.

(4) **Bombay.**—So far no agricultural evacuee land in Bombay has been reported. Schemes for the resettlement of 300 displaced families on 3,900 acres of land have been sanctioned. More than 200 families had been resettled upto the end of October 1949 under these schemes.

(5) **West Bengal.**—Schemes for the resettlement of 30,000 displaced families on an area of 5,50,000 acres have been sanctioned. 1,664 families had been resettled on 83,200 acres of land upto the middle of September 1949 under these schemes.

(6) **Delhi.**—The total evacuee culturable land in Delhi is reported to be 15,945 acres. Excluding the area in possession of local Hindu tenants, the net area available for allotment to displaced persons comes to nearly 12,000 acres. Of this, 10,410 acres have already been allotted to 737 displaced agriculturist families and 15 co-operative societies of displaced persons.

(7) **Ajmer-Merwara.**—The total agricultural evacuee land in Ajmer-Merwara is reported to be 1,100 acres. Of this, 517 acres have already been allotted to 87 displaced families. In addition, 42 families of displaced persons have been resettled on 420 acres of other land acquired for the purpose.

(8) **Matsya.**—The total area evacuated by Muslims in Alwar and Bharatpur Districts was 4,17,721 acres. After taking into account the area that is required for restoration to those Muslims who did not leave the Indian Dominion and the area in possession of local Hindu tenants, the net area available for allotment to displaced persons is estimated to be 2,42,158 acres. This area is considered sufficient for the resettlement of nearly 22,000 families. Upto the end of November 1949, nearly 18,000 families had already been resettled and steps are being taken to settle the remaining families as early as possible.

(9) **Bikaner.**—The total evacuee land is 2,36,000 acres of which nearly 2,00,000 acres had been allotted to about 12,000 displaced families upto the end of July 1949. A committee has been set up to review the allotments already made and to allot the remaining area.

(10) **Bhopal.**—38,000 acres of cultivable land were reported to be available in Bhopal and plans for the resettlement of 2,500 displaced families were taken in hand. Arrangements have already been completed for the resettlement of more than 1,000 families on the available land in Bhopal.

(11) **Vindhya Pradesh.**—It has been decided to resettle 400 displaced families on culturable waste land in Vindhya Pradesh.

(12) **Tripura.**—A scheme for the resettlement of 1,000 displaced families on cultivable waste land in Tripura has also been sanctioned.

(13) **Andamans.**—200 families of displaced persons were sent to the Andaman Islands for resettlement. Of these, 150 families were agriculturists. Subsequently 26 more families

took to agriculture. 847 acres of land had been allotted to these families upto the end of October 1949.

(14) The possibilities of resettlement of displaced persons on land in Madhyabharat, Rampur and other places are being explored both on the cultivable waste land and on land to be reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation.

ELECTORAL ROLLS IN EAST PUNJAB

*863. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state whether in the electoral rolls for the next elections on adult franchise under the new Constitution in the East Punjab castes (Mazhabis, Kabirpanthis, Sikligars etc.) of Sikhs have been included in the Scheduled Castes rolls in accordance with the resolution of the Constituent Assembly?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Honourable Member seems to be under a misapprehension as to the position of Scheduled Castes in regard to elections under the new Constitution. Castes, races or tribes which are to be deemed to be Scheduled Castes for the purposes of the Constitution are to be specified by the President, after consultation with the Governor or Rajpramukh of the State concerned, by public notification under Article 341. The Government of India have no doubt that the four castes (Mazhabis, Kabirpanthis, Sikligars and Ramdasis) of Sikhs recommended to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes by the Constituent Assembly will be included in the list by the President. Since a system of joint electorates is to be adopted, members of the Scheduled Castes will not be shown separately in the electoral rolls. In fact, the rolls will not ordinarily contain information about the caste or community of the elector.

BURMA EVACUEES

*864. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of Burma evacuees have returned to Vizagapatam district;

(b) if so, how many they are;

(c) whether any relief (either lump-sum or monthly payments) is being given to them until they are able to rehabilitate themselves; and

(d) whether in view of the fact that so many evacuees used to work in the saw-mills in Burma, Government will consider the advisability of persuading the Government of Madras to establish saw-mills in Vizagapatam district where there are plenty of forests, so that these evacuees could find employment?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs). (a) and (b). About 11,700 Indian nationals have arrived at Vizagapatam from Burma between January and October, 1949.

(c) Destitute Indians are repatriated from Burma by our Embassy in Rangoon at Government expense. They are received at the port in India by our Protector of Emigrants and are paid travelling expenses and diet charges to enable them to reach their destinations. Such of them as have no homes to go to immediately, are granted allowances on the scale as those laid down for other refugees in India, until they are found employment or otherwise absorbed. No lump sum or monthly allowances are paid by the Government.

(d) The Government have no statistics regarding the number of evacuees who might have been working in saw-mills in Burma before their evacuation to India. The All India South East Asia Refugees Association, Baruva, in their representation, submitted to the Government of India in May, 1949, suggested, *inter alia*, the establishment of saw-mills in the Vizagapatam district. The suggestion has been communicated to the Government of Madras for their consideration.

DELHI CO-OPERATIVE HEALTH CENTRES SCHEME

*865. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) how many Centres were started in Delhi under the Co-operative Health Centres scheme, what amount was spent and what income was derived in each case;

(b) which of these Centres have been successful and what encouragement Government intend to give to such Centres; and

(c) what efforts have been made by Government for making the scheme a success?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) The Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Health Centres at Gole Market and Subzimandi, Delhi, showed promise of success. The scheme contemplated Government help for a short period only to enable displaced practitioners to make a start, and accordingly the management of these two Centres have been transferred to the Doctor and Vaidya in charge and the All India Institute of Homeopathy.

(c) Besides providing equipped premises in centrally situated areas, Government bears the salaries of the staff for three months in the first instance.

STATEMENT

Name of the centre	Total expenditure incurred	Total income derived
	Rs.	Rs.
I. ALLOPATHIC CENTRES—		
(1) Co-operative Health Centre, Gole Market	8,382-11-3	328-6-0
(2) Co-operative Health Centre, Daryaganj.	10,550-1-6	1,334-15-0
(3) Co-Operative Health Centre, Pusa Colony.	4,916-14-3	1,369-8-6
II. HOMOEOPATHIC CENTRES—		
(4) Co-operative Homeopathic Health Centre, Subzimandi.	4,955-7-9	2,413-10-0
III. AYURVEDIC CENTRES—		
(5) Co-operative Ayurvedic Health Centre, Gole Market	4,734-9-9	3,015-13-0
TOTAL	32,640-12-6	8,462-4-6

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

VICE-CONSULATES AT JALALABAD AND KANDAHAR

37. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what will be the annual recurring cost of opening Vice-Consulates at Jalalabad and Kandahar?

(b) What will be the initial expenditure of opening the said two Vice-Consulates?

(c) What is the reason for opening them now?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) The annual recurring cost in respect of Jalalabad and Kandahar Vice-Consulates will be about Rs. 43,000 each.

(b) The initial expenditure in respect of Jalalabad and Kandahar Vice-Consulates would approximately be Rs. 33,450 and Rs. 36,150 respectively during the year 1949-50.

(c) The Vice-Consulates in question are already functioning. They were opened at the request of the Government of Afghanistan to facilitate grant of visas to Afghan nationals visiting India.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEPOSITS OF NON-MUSLIMS IN CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES IN WEST PUNJAB

Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) what the total deposits left behind by non-Muslims in the Co-operative Credit Societies of the West Punjab are;

(b) what the total deposits left behind by the Muslims in similar Societies in the East Punjab are;

(c) whether the question of repayment of these assets by the West Punjab Government has been taken up at Inter-Dominion Conferences; if so, with what results and if not, why not; and

(d) whether Government propose to pay *pro rata* out of the Muslim deposits to the non-Muslim depositors for the period this question is not finally decided and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) East Punjab Government has a claim of Rs. 3,54,54,746 for assets left behind by non-Muslims with the Co-operative Credit Societies in the West Punjab.

(b) West Punjab Government has a claim of Rs. 1,28,387 on account of the assets left behind by Muslims in Co-operative Credit Societies in East Punjab.

(c) Yes. An agreement on this question was reached. A copy of the relevant portion of the agreement is placed on the Table of the House.

(d) In view of the fact that the agreement is in the course of implementation, the question does not arise.

(662)

Copy of extract of Inter-Dominion Agreement on Banking reached at Lahore on 22nd-23rd April 1949

PART II

Co-operative Institutions

1. Co-operative institutions in the East and West Punjab including the Punjab States now merged in the East Punjab and Delhi.

In pursuance of the discussions which took place between the representatives of the Government of East Punjab and West Punjab in the three meetings held on 15th March, 1948, 2nd April, 1948 and 27th May 1948, the minutes whereof are attached as Annexures I, II, and III to this agreement, the following agreement was reached:

(a) The Government of East Punjab will take steps for the removal of the 'stops' recorded against the securities belonging to the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Lahore, or other Co-operative Institutions of West Punjab and N.W.F.P., the orders to take effect on receipt by the Reserve Bank of India, Delhi, of the securities of the face value of Rs. 1,04,65,500 mentioned in (b) below.

(b) Against the net sum of Rs. 2.26 lakhs odd arrived at by the Registrars of the two Provinces as payable to East Punjab the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Lahore, will hand over to the Reserve Bank of India, Delhi, duly endorsed in favour of the Ambala Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ambala, securities of the face value of Rs. 1,04,65,500 deposited with them by the Co-operative institutions now located in the East Punjab and in addition securities of the face value of Rs. 41,00,000 now agreed to be made available to the East Punjab, and the balance will be kept back by the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Lahore, pending the final adjustment of unverified claims and the drawing up of the final balance-sheet as in (e) below.

The East Punjab Government will first arrange that the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Lahore, gets the necessary authority for transferring the securities of the face value of Rs. 1,04,65,500 mentioned above.

Securities of the face value of Rs. 41,00,000 mentioned above will be delivered duly endorsed to the Reserve Bank of India, Delhi, within three weeks of the receipt of intimation by the West Punjab Government of the removal of the 'stops' as in (a) above and the vacation of the injunctions, whichever is later.

(c) The East Punjab Government will immediately on the receipt of securities of the face value of Rs. 1,04,65,500 by the Reserve Bank of India, Delhi, as in (a) above take steps for the withdrawal of the pending suits relating to the title of the securities held by the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Lahore.

(d) The Registrars of Co-operative Societies of the East and West Punjab will take steps as soon as the transfer of securities mentioned in (b) above has been effected to issue the necessary authority to their respective Provincial Co-operative Banks to make payment of the deposits payable on account of the depositors who have migrated from the other Province.

(e) In order to facilitate the final settlement of the matter the two Registrars will immediately take steps to examine the unverified claims and complete the verified claims and complete the verification by the 31st August, 1949, and prepare a final balance-sheet together with a list of claims, if any, on which agreement could not be reached by them.

NOTE.—Deposits of Muslims who have stayed on in Delhi Province and in the District of Gurgaon will not be transferred for payment in West Punjab.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Are there any securities of the Punjab Co-operative Bank, Lahore, lying with the Reserve Bank of India?

Mr. Speaker: How does this question arise from this?

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: There are certain securities lying in Pakistan of Co-operative Banks in India, and I am asking whether there are certain securities lying still with the Reserve Bank of India, belonging to the Pakistan Co-operative Banks.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I draw the attention of the Honourable the Prime Minister to another part of his speech which he delivered in the Constituent Assembly, in which he had given an assurance that he was agreeable to giving extra representation to Delhi in the House of the People, and ask what he proposes to do with regard to that assurance?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am grateful that he has drawn my attention to it, but I have not the faintest recollection of having made that statement.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I have got the speech with me.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Friday, 23rd December, 1949

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

*866. [WITHDRAWN.]

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES FOR WORKERS

*867. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in pursuance of the Ordinance by the Government of India for the issue of National Savings Certificates to workers of textile mills, workers have taken advantage of the scheme, and if so, how many?

(b) Is it a fact that subsequent amendments were made in the Ordinance to enable workers to cash the Certificate immediately if they so desire?

(c) If so, what are the advantages in issuing such certificates?

(d) Were the respective Unions of workers consulted before such an Ordinance was issued?

(e) How many of such Unions after the promulgation of the Ordinance opposed the whole scheme?

(f) What are the future plans of Government in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes. A large number of workers have taken advantage of scheme. The exact number cannot be stated as complete details are not yet available.

(b) Yes.

(c) The idea was to create the habit of saving while defeating unfounded rumours that the money would not be returned to owners of certificates.

(d) The employees' representative at the Bombay Industrial Court expressed his Union's willingness to accept a part of the Bonus in the form of certificates.

(e) The scheme was opposed by certain Textile Workers' Unions at Bombay.

(f) The matter is under consideration.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the percentage of the certificates which the workers have taken and have cashed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot give a precise estimate just now because the information is not complete but I should say about 2/3rd have been prematurely cashed.

SENIOR CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATIONS

***868. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state how many schools exist in India which prepare for Senior Cambridge examinations?

(b) Is there any restriction in regard to the admission of boys in these schools and if so, what are these?

(c) Do Government give grants to all these schools, and if so, what is the amount?

(d) Do Government intend to continue to recognise these Institutions?

(e) Are any special advantages given to boys who pass out from such schools for Government services and if so, what are they?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) to (c). A statement containing the requisite information in so far as Centrally Administered Areas and Schools maintained by the Central Government are concerned, is laid on the Table. (See Appendix XXI, *annexure No. 1.*)

(d) These schools have been in existence for a number of years and people have generally liked the education given in them. Government have not yet decided what they would do with these institutions in the new context of things. Government propose to have a Commission to go into the entire question of the secondary education. The question of these institutions will also come before this Commission.

(e) None. The second part does not arise.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know pending the appointment of this Commission whether Government intend to admit new admissions to Senior Cambridge Examinations in the present schools?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Till the scheme is materialized, I think there is every likelihood of the *status quo* being continued in some form or another.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What is going to be the scope of this Commission, is it going to consider the question of secondary education in the Centrally administered areas or over the whole of India?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Whole of India.

DRUG FOR LEPROSY

***869. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a new drug has been discovered for leprosy treatment?

(b) If so, who is the discoverer of this drug and has it been experimented with and if so, with what success?

(c) Where was this drug experimented?

(d) Has such a drug been used on the leprosy patients in India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) to (d). A few new drugs have been reported to be effective in leprosy treatment during the recent past. A statement in respect of these drugs is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Quite a few new drugs have been reported to be effective in leprosy treatment during the recent past. These are (i) Derivatives of diamino-diphenyl-sulphone, (ii) Streptomycin, (iii) Paramino-Salicylic acid.

All these drugs are well known to leprosy workers in India and the work particularly on sulphone preparations has received international recognition. Sulphone group of drugs was first manufactured by an English Firm, and later on many of the commercial firms in England and the United States of America started producing it. Promin, Diazone and Sulphetrone are members of the sulphone group. The first two had been in use in the treatment of leprosy for the last three or four years but the last one (sulphetrone) has come into use only recently. The reports of the results have been very encouraging in the hands of American, British and Indian workers. The drug is being tried on a limited scale in the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium at Chingleput, Madras, School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta and in many other leprosy homes in the country.

Several months ago Government saw reports of the use of another drug called 'Oxydiphtheric Acid' in the treatment of leprosy by Russian workers. Definite information is, however, not yet available regarding the specific value of this treatment. Efforts are being made to obtain samples of medicine and literature regarding the composition and specific value of this drug in the treatment of leprosy.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether this new treatment is found to be very successful in Cyprus as stated by the Director of Medical Services in that country and if so, whether any experiment has been made in this country by Government?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government is carrying out experiments at various places, primarily at Chingleput, Madras, and the results have been encouraging. We are aware of what is happening in Cyprus.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the result of experiments so far in India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have just said that the results of treatment with this new drug sulphone, which is the latest, are encouraging.

DUES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA

***870. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain amount was due to the Government of India from the Burma Government at the time of separation of Burma from India?

(b) If so, what was the amount and what was the purpose for which the amount was originally paid?

(c) When is the amount likely to be recovered?

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

(b) The separation debt of Burma was fixed at Rs. 50,79,81,000. It represents Burma's share of the net outstanding debt of the Government of India on the date of the separation and is not related to any amount paid to the Government of Burma.

(c) The debt is repayable in 45 years commencing from 1937-38. The payments have, however, remained suspended from 1942-43 when Burma was over-run by the Japanese and the question of resuming them is under discussion with the Government of Burma.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is there any likelihood of recovering this amount? If so, are negotiations going on and with what results? Can the House have some idea of this?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We are still exploring the possibilities in consultation with the Government of Burma.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether at any stage this discussion took place and, if so, whether Burma Government have shown any indication of continuing the payment of instalments hereafter regularly?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have not so far reached any definite conclusions but the Honourable Member will appreciate that in the present financial position of Burma the question of payment presents certain difficulties.

Shri B. Das: May I enquire whether at any stage of financial negotiations with the U.K. Government regarding debt allocation to India and consolidated loans to Burma, it was contemplated that U.K. should take over this loan, or that the loan should be transferred from India to U.K.?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

Shri B. Das: Is it not a fact that it was U.K. that compelled India to bear this burden and why should India

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What is the amount outstanding now?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The original amount as I stated in my reply is 50 crores odd. That is the total amount. Payment has been suspended from 1942. If you take the outstanding principal plus the interest outstanding plus certain pension payments which Burma has got to make, my own estimate is, that the total amount payable today would be somewhere of the order of 64 crores.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know at what rate the interest is charged?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if this is adjustable in regard to the trade balance with Burma?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know if any effort is made by Government to see that this payment is adjusted towards purchases of rice that we are purchasing from Burma?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is an entirely different question.

TRAINING FOR TECHNICIANS

*371. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps to provide Education for Technicians for industries in India?

(b) If so, have any centres been opened?

(c) How many students have been trained and how many have found employment?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) and (b). The steps taken by Government for the provision

of facilities for education and training of technicians for industry are as follows:

(i) **Higher Education and Training.**—Government have given grants to the provinces from the development funds for improving and strengthening the facilities in the existing engineering and technological institutions. In addition, schemes have been sanctioned for direct financial aid to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for an all-round improvement and expansion and to selected non-government technological institutions recommended by the All-India Council for Technical Education, for the same purpose. A Central Higher Technical Institute is being established at Hijli, near Calcutta. This institute will provide extensive facilities including those for post-graduate work and research.

(ii) **Training for Chargemen and Foremen.**—Government have instituted a training scheme in the Sindri Fertiliser Factory and 55 trainees have been provided for, in the first instance.

(iii) **Training for Artisans and Craftsmen.**—Schemes for technical and vocational training have been instituted for this purpose. In September 1949, 74 technical training centres and 79 vocational training centres were functioning. Apprentice training facilities have been provided in 318 industrial undertakings. Under the first two schemes, training has been provided for demobilised services personnel and persons displaced from Pakistan. It has now been decided to have, in place of the temporary schemes, a scheme for the training of adult civilians and facilities for the training of 10,000 persons are proposed to be provided. An aeronautical trade apprenticeship training scheme is operating at the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., Bangalore, to train Indian nationals for skilled crafts in aircraft production and maintenance. Provision has been made under this scheme for 150 trainees.

In addition to the above, arrangements exist for the practical training of technicians in Indian and foreign firms through the purchase organisations of the Government. A scheme for the award of about 450 industrial training stipends for graduates and diploma holders has also been approved and will be put into operation very soon.

(c) It is believed that most of the students who have passed out from institutions under category (i) above, have found suitable employment. Statistics in this connection are not available. In so far as the technical training centres are concerned, 21585 trainees passed out of these centres upto September 1949 and of this number, approximately 60 per cent. are believed to have found employment.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the schemes mentioned by the Honourable Minister stand ready for execution immediately or will they be held over in view of retrenchment?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I have said in my reply that they are functioning and Government will make all possible efforts to see that they continue to function.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated in his reply that grants are being given to various institutions and that there is a new scheme also. May I know the total amount given to those institutions and whether they will also come under the cut or will continue?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I want notice.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: With regard to part (b), may I know the probable time when the Higher Technological Institute to be started in Calcutta will come into working?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: By some time in 1950.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: How long does Government expect it will take to absorb the remaining 40 per cent?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I cannot say. But all efforts are being made, and will be made, for absorbing them also.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the number approximately, if not accurately, of foreign experts, technicians and advisers who are in India today in connection with the working of these various schemes?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I am afraid I have not got that information with me at present.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether Government is giving these trained technicians any financial aid after the training to assist them in starting their own business?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: In view of the great necessity of trained technicians in this country, will Government see that no cut is made in this direction?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

ILLEGAL DISTILLATION OF LIQUOR

***872. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state how many cases of illegal distillation of liquor have been detected in the centrally administered areas during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50 to date?

(b) What are the respective numbers of (i) convicted; (ii) discharged; and (iii) under-trial cases?

(c) What is the total amount of fines realised from these cases?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 2.)

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: How many of these Centrally administered areas are under partial or complete prohibition?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is really a question which must be referred to my honourable colleague the Minister for Home Affairs. But as far as I am in a position to say—and I speak subject to correction—for Ajmer-Merwara there is a definite plan for the introduction of complete prohibition by 1953-54. As far as other Centrally administered areas are concerned, the proposal is to introduce prohibition by stages without any definite time-limit.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know which of the two incomes, namely, the amount of fines realised for illegal distillation and the licence fee collected for liquor shops, is greater?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Honourable Member will find it from the statement I have placed on the Table.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether it is a fact that prohibition gives an incentive to illegal distillation?

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of opinion.

Shri H. V. Kamath: From reports received by the Honourable Minister, is he in a position to tell the House whether illicit distillation of liquor is on the increase or on the decrease?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to say anything on that.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Cannot the Honourable Minister give the House the total amount of fines collected instead of referring us to a statement which is not available?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The total amount of fines realized in 1948-49 is Rs. 10,560 and in 1949-50 (up to date) Rs. 8,504.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know the approximate area in which the distillation of liquor is illegal?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am concerned only with the finance of this matter.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the excise duty in Delhi on the sale of liquor has risen by about 50 per cent. during the last year?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to answer it now.

TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIA

***873. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the total number of beds in tuberculosis sanatoria in India (i) paying; and (ii) non-paying?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (i) Paying beds—2,342. (ii) Non-paying beds—1,015.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What is the monthly charge for these paying beds?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The average charge for tuberculosis patients in hospitals works out at about Rs. 1,500 a year.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know how many of these beds belong to privately managed sanatoria?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am afraid I could not give the exact numbers. The statement gives the names of all the sanatoria that are managed by Government, those that are aided by Government and those that are managed privately. But I would have to have notice as to how many patients there are in each of them.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: May I know how many sanatoria are State-managed?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Honourable Member will get the complete figures in the statement that will be laid on the Table.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the incidence of tuberculosis in India and the annual mortality figures?

Mr. Speaker: That can be found from any Report.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any of these sanatoria has special wards for student-patients?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Do Government provide any other facilities for students who are suffering from T.B.?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, except that they are admitted into the existing sanatoria and hospitals, and, as far as possible, free treatment is given to them—it is all free.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the acute shortage of beds in our hospitals, may I know whether Government is considering any scheme to increase the bed strength in the hospitals?

Mr. Speaker: It is practically a suggestion for action.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that the number of beds in the Delhi Tuberculosis Hospital is very much less than the requirement and that patients have to wait for many months before they can get admission into the general wards?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am painfully aware of it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does Government propose to give a fair trial to the Ayurvedic treatment of tuberculosis?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does it not arise?

Mr. Speaker: No.

MINERAL SPRINGS (SPAS) IN INDIA

***874. Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the waters of various famous springs (hot and cold) in India have been examined for their curative properties?

(b) Have Government any list of springs in this country, the waters of which are largely used by people for their curative properties?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). The waters of most of the springs have been examined. A list of mineral springs in the various Provinces is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 3.)

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Is it under the contemplation of Government to bring foreign experts to make a thorough enquiry about this matter?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government have no intention of bringing any foreign experts, but as soon as funds are available and our schemes are ready, and we are prepared to develop spas and after the Committee has reported as to which are capable of development, they will be proceeded with.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Which are the springs which Government have in contemplation to develop?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have said that we have got a list of all of them and most of the waters have been examined. But we would have to make a further survey as to which are the ones we should develop in the first instance.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Will the scientists in India be utilised for the purpose before going to foreign countries to get scientists?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already said that we have no intention of going to foreign countries for this purpose.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Honourable Minister any figures to show how many of our people go to foreign countries for spa treatment annually?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have not got any information on that.

BORDER RAIDS FROM PAKISTAN

†*875. Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the raids by the Pakistan Nationals into the Indian territory on the border are very frequent; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to stop recurrence of such raids?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have taken all possible steps in this direction, but it will be appreciated that it is not always possible to prevent minor raids even across the best guarded frontier in any country.

GUIDE BOOKS

†*876. Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether a survey has been made and handbooks prepared for the guidance of those seeking recreation and enjoyment by travel?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): A preliminary survey of places of tourist attraction within India was conducted in 1945 by a Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir John Sargent. A handbook on Kashmir, has already been issued. The preparation of a general guide book and regional guide books for selected centres of interest is on hand.

HINDI LESSON BY A.I.R.

†*877. Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that Hindi will be the national language of India as early as practicable, Government will consider the proposal of making it a regular item of programme to give lessons in the national language in those regions where the regional language is other than Hindi; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this direction?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the nine non-Hindi Stations of All India Radio, namely Calcutta, Shillong-Guhati, Cuttack, Madras, Tiruchi, Vijayawada, Bombay, Baroda and Ahmedabad, started broadcasting a graduated course of 65 Hindi lessons on the 18th December.

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

TERRITORIAL ARMY

*878. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what is going to be the pattern of organisation of the Territorial Army in India?

(b) How many have been recruited so far and what is the target figure aimed at?

(c) Can Government servants join the Territorial Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to an illustrated pamphlet on the subject recently issued by Army Headquarters. A copy of the pamphlet is available in the Library of the House.

(b) The number of recruits enrolled throughout India from the date recruitment was begun, namely, the 9th October 1949, up to the 22nd November 1949 is 971, while the target for the units to be raised in 1949-50 is 26,484.

(c) A Government servant with the prescribed qualifications can join the Territorial Army provided he has obtained permission from the Government and also a certificate to the effect that his services will be made available for the Territorial Army whenever required.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know where these recruits are being trained?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: In different centres all over the country.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know why, out of the target figure of 26,484, only such a small number as 971 have so far been recruited? Is there any specific reason for this?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The units that we are now raising are technical units. That is why the number is small.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know which of the Provinces have contributed more to the Territorial Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got that information just now, but as I stated in my reply, recruitment has been made from all over the country.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Do Government ascertain the political predilection of the applicants before they are admitted into the Territorial Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, a close examination is made.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: What is the channel through which it is ascertained?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The usual channel.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether recruitment was made from the acceding States also?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Oh, yes. This recruitment is made from all over the country and the States also are included in the zones. There are altogether eight zones and all the States are included in one or the other zone.

MANUAL BASIC EDUCATION

*879. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state what progress has been made in regard to the introduction of the Manual Basic Education Scheme?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 377 asked by Dr. Mono Mohon Das on 7th December, 1949 regarding Wardha Scheme of Education.

The gist of the reply is that the Basic Education scheme has been accepted by the Central and Provincial Governments and is being implemented. A great obstacle to rapid progress is shortage of funds.

MANUFACTURE OF PREFABRICATED HOUSES (SCHOOL FOR TRAINING)

*880. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a P.T.I. report from Bombay dated the 12th November 1949, and published in the *Indian News Chronicle*, dated the 13th November 1949, to the effect that a technical school to train Indians in the construction of prefabricated houses will soon be set up in New Delhi and that Government have concluded an agreement with a British firm of engineers for the purpose; and

(b) whether the report is correct?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) The report is not correct.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the attention of the Minister been drawn to a statement made by Mr. Reed of Reema Construction Co., from London or Bombay that he had been recently to India and had discussed this matter with the Government of India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I don't know what statement Mr. Reed has made in England, but I happened to see Mr. Reed this morning and he stated that he had given no interview to the Press in India.

As far as the Reema Construction Company is concerned, they are going to build here for us. I have fully replied to that question quite recently in this House.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is Reema Construction going to build a factory here or only start a school for training Indians in the construction of prefabricated houses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already answered fully in regard to what the Reema Construction is going to do here. In the first instance, they are going to build hospital wards in India for the Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there a scheme at all for the training of Indians in the construction of prefabricated houses, under the consideration of Government?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir, not at the moment.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if the whole story published in the *Indian News Chronicle* is fabricated, or only that part which pertains to the firm of

engineers? I want to know exactly whether there is any training centre going to be opened at Delhi for training in construction of pre-fabs.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already stated that no training centre is going to be opened.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In the Government Housing Factory at present in Delhi, is there no scheme at all for the training of Indians in the construction of pre-fabricated houses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That question has already been replied to on the floor of this House before. Indians are being trained in the Government factory.

C. P. AND BERAR STATES

***881. Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Rulers of the merged states of the Central Provinces and Berar were given permission to hold Dushehra Durbars this year, as usual?

(b) If so, in which of the States Dushehra Durbars were held?

(c) Was the permission to hold the Durbars given by the Government of India or by the Provincial Government and why?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (c). Permission of Government is not necessary for the holding of Durbars by the Rulers in their capital on the occasion of national festivals.

(b) I regret we have no information as to the Rulers who held the Durbar.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Is the Government aware that Durbars were actually held and that that has a bad effect on the people?

Mr. Speaker: I don't see how this question is permissible.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Do Government have any objection to holding a mock Durbar?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of the Members of Parliament?

SMUGGLING OF COTTON AND JUTE INTO PAKISTAN

***882. Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that raw cotton from Lushai Hills and raw cotton and raw jute from Garo-Hills have been smuggled into Pakistan in large quantities?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken against those persons who have smuggled the goods?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) There is reason to believe that the commodities mentioned are finding their way to Pakistan through unauthorised routes; but in view of the extensive frontier without natural barriers the number of cases detected is negligible.

(b) The number of cases detected are departmentally adjudicated by the Customs authorities, and in cases where the offence is established goods are confiscated subject to payment of redemption fines and/or personal penalties. Steps are also being taken to increase preventive measures.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: What is the total quantity of goods confiscated?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to give that information, but it is very inconsiderable.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: How many persons were involved in it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am afraid, Sir, I have not got the information here.

LOAN TO KASHMIR STATE

***883. Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state the total amount which has been advanced as loan to the Kashmir State up to the 31st of October, 1949?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Up to October 31st, 1949 loans amounting to 3½ crores were advanced to the Jammu and Kashmir State.

SALARIES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

***884. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what is the number of permanent Government officials who are drawing salaries more than double their substantive pay?

(b) What would be the total of substantive pay due to them for the year 1948-49, and what is the total of salaries actually paid to them for the same year?

(c) What is the number of such officers who have been officiating with a salary more than double their permanent pay for the last five years?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (c). I regret the information is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with its utility.

RARE MANUSCRIPTS IN BIKANER

***885. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rare Sanskrit manuscripts in the Fort of Bikaner;

(b) whether they were thrown open to research scholars about ten years ago; and

(c) whether they have recently become the private property of the Ruler who has withdrawn all research facilities?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) There is a large number of rare Sanskrit manuscripts in the Fort of Bikaner the exact details of which are not available.

(b) Government of India have no information.

(c) These manuscripts are the private property of the Maharaja but as far as is known research facilities have not been withdrawn by him.

DEVALUATION

***886. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the articles on

devaluation published in the *Harijan* dated the 9th and 16th October 1949 headed "Devaluation of the Rupee" and "The Moral of Devaluation" respectively; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the measures suggested therein for counteracting the evil effects of devaluation?

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

(b) The main objectives suggested in this article, viz., economy in Government expenditure, reduction in imports so as to bring them within the country's resources, counteracting inflationary forces in the country's economy and increasing production in the country are broadly identical with some of those adopted by the Government of India, as part of the eight-point economic programme announced by me in the course of the parliamentary debate on devaluation.

The Government do not consider it practicable under the present conditions to implement many of the measures suggested.

COINS AND PAPER CURRENCY

***887. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of paper currency and silver rupees in circulation immediately before and after World War I;

(b) the amount of paper currency and rupees in circulation immediately before World War II;

(c) the amounts of one rupee and two rupee notes printed during World War II, and the total amounts thereof in circulation today;

(d) when the old silver rupees in circulation during World War II were withdrawn, when and in what amounts the new silver and nickel rupees were minted, and the total amounts of these coins in circulation at present;

(e) the reasons for minting nickel rupees, and for reducing the size of the coin;

(f) whether Government have considered the inadvisability of putting in circulation nickel rupees side by side with silver rupees; and

(g) whether Government are aware of the reluctance on the part of the public and the trade to accept nickel rupees?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Total notes in circulation at the end of March, 1914, and March, 1919, amounted to Rs. 49.97 crores and Rs. 133.53 crores, respectively.

(b) Rs. 182.13 crores of notes were in circulation on the 1st September, 1939.

(c) One rupee notes of Rs. 304.80 crores and two rupee notes of Rs. 69 crores were printed.

One rupee notes in circulation amount to about Rs. 44 crores; and Rs. 2 notes to about Rs. 28 crores.

(d) The withdrawal of standard silver rupees started in April, 1941 and the process was completed in November, 1943. Quaternary rupees were first put into circulation on the 23rd December, 1940 and nickel rupees on the 2nd June, 1947. The total supply of quaternary rupees and nickel rupees received by the Reserve Bank of India from the India Government Mints up to the 15th

December, 1949, amounts to about Rs. 104.85 crores and Rs. 17.28 crores, respectively. The circulation of quaternary rupees and nickel rupees as on the 9th December, 1949, stands at about Rs. 82.81 crores and Rs. 12.57 crores, respectively.

(e) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the press note issued by Government on the 23rd of May, 1946, from which it will be seen that owing to inadequate supplies of silver in the open market and the prevailing high prices in India, it was considered wasteful to use silver for coinage, especially as pure nickel is eminently suitable for coinage purposes owing to its special physical characteristics. Moreover, this would make it easier for Government to return silver borrowed from the Government of the United States of America between 1943 and 1945.

The size of the coin has been reduced in diameter from 1.2 inches to 1.1 inches for technical reasons on account of the new type of metal used.

(f) Standard silver rupees were demonetised long ago and are no longer legal tender. Further issue of quaternary rupees has also been stopped, and these are being gradually withdrawn from circulation.

(g) No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In regard to the answers given about paper currency, is the Honourable Minister in a position to tell the House as to how many thousand-rupee notes were in circulation at the time the Demonetisation Ordinance was issued in 1946?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot give the information straightaway, but I can find it for the honourable Member.

Shri B. Das: With reference to the reply to part (c) which mentions a circulation of Rs. 374 crores worth of one rupee and two rupee notes, may I know what percentage of this amount has been destroyed by handling—you know these rupee notes are passed from hand to hand and get destroyed—and consequently the Government's liability has been reduced to that extent?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It requires a considerable amount of research, but I am prepared to oblige the Honourable Member if he is very keen on getting this information.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What would be the metallic value of the present nickel rupee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It has got to be calculated. It will be very much less than the face value.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: Can the Honourable Minister tell the House how much money is in circulation in the United Provinces?

Mr. Speaker: Is he able to give that figure?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is not a calculation which it is possible to make with any sort of accuracy.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In regard to answer to part (c) of the question regarding the issue of one rupee and two rupee notes, may I know the security against which these notes were issued?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, Sir, the one rupee notes are not fiduciary currency. They are supposed to be coins.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In view of the fact that the intrinsic value of the metal rupee is very low, is any security arranged against which this coin is issued?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The question of security does not arise here.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What proportion of the currency notes is secured by Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is fully secured.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will you, Sir, be so good as to treat Question 888 as unstarred in favour of Question 897?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid he has come too late. It might as well be withdrawn.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I do not want to put 888. It may be treated as unstarred and I might be permitted to put 897 instead.

Mr. Speaker: All right. Next Question—889.

CURRENCY REFORMS

***888. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the articles headed "Combating Inflation and High Prices" and "Currency and Finance" published in *The Harijan*, dated the 3rd July 1949 and the 2nd October 1949 respectively; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the scheme of currency reform propounded therein?

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

(b) No. Government do not consider the scheme practicable.

CIRCULATION OF *The Blitz* IN THE ARMY

***889. Shri Lakshminarayana Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state if a circular has been issued that *The Blitz*, an English Weekly published from Bombay, should be discouraged in the Army Headquarters and elsewhere among the Army?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for it?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

LITERATURE AND NEWSPAPERS FOR THE ARMY

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

(a) whether it is a fact that instructions have been issued by the Defence Ministry, to the Armed Forces Commands that all ranks should be discouraged from reading non-Congress papers and literature; and

(b) what facilities, if any, Government propose to give to various political

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

parties to keep the Armed Forces informed of their policies and programme, so that when elections are held, the troops know how to exercise their votes?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No, it is completely untrue.

(b) No special facilities will be provided to any political party, but as the troops have access to newspapers, etc., it may be assumed that they will have a good idea of what each party stands for.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is it not the policy of the Government to keep the Army free from any political influence?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are there any papers which have been prohibited from being subscribed to by the messes and clubs in the Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not say off-hand. I would require notice.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has *Blitz* been prohibited?

Mr. Speaker: I think there was a question about that in the House.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Arising from the supplementaries, may I know if the Army people are authorised to read the election manifestoes of the various parties before they come to the polling booth for voting?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: It arises out of the supplementaries.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Is there any paper edited by the Ministry of Defence for the general information and education of the Military Forces?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, Sir. There is.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Have Government taken steps to ensure that publications from the "yellow Press" which gives out tendentious news are not circulated in the Army?

Mr. Speaker: It amounts to a suggestion.

STATUS OF JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER'S COURT (AJMER)

***891. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Judicial Commissioner's Court in Ajmer has been the highest Court of Civil and Criminal jurisdiction for this area, like the High Courts in the provinces of India, and that since January, 1927 appeals from its judgements, decrees and orders lay to the Privy Council?

(b) Is it also a fact that the appellate jurisdiction of the Privy Council from this Court has since been abolished and now the appeal from the decrees and orders of this Court lies to the Federal Court?

(c) Is it also a fact that the Judicial Commissioner's Court is not included in the category of High Courts as defined in the Government of India Act, 1935 for the purposes of the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court?

(d) If so, what steps are being taken by Government to bring the Court of the Judicial Commissioner at par with other High Courts in this respect and if not, why not?

(e) Is it a fact that the advocates practising in the Court of the Judicial

Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, have been refused permission to be enrolled as Advocates of the Federal Court?

(f) Is any proposal under consideration for placing the advocates of the Judicial Commissioner's Court on the same footing as the advocates of other High Courts for the purpose of enrolment as advocates of the Federal Court?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). The Court of Judicial Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara is not a High Court within the meaning of the Government of India Act, 1935, but by virtue of the enactment of the Abolition of the Privy Council Jurisdiction Act, 1949, appeals from its decrees and orders lie to the Federal Court.

(e) Under the Rules of the Federal Court, as they stand at present, Advocates practising in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, are not eligible for enrolment as Advocates in the Federal Court, because the Rules have defined "High Court" as being a Court within the meaning of Section 219 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

(f) The question of the revision of the Rules is under consideration.

COPYRIGHT COMMITTEE

***892. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the report of the "copyright" Committee has been published?

(b) If not, when is it expected to be published?

(c) Do Government propose to amend the Copyright Act?

(d) Will it be extended to States Unions and Merged States also and if so by what time?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) The Expert Committee appointed to work out the details of the proposed Central Reference Library with a Copyright Section attached to it has not yet completed its deliberations and no report has, so far, been received from it.

(b) No definite date can be given.

(c) The question of amending the Copyright Act will be considered on receipt of the report of the Expert Committee.

(d) Preliminary steps are already being taken to have the Indian Copyright Act, 1914 extended to the Unions of States, the State of Mysore and to merged States.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: May I know how many cases of infringement of copyrights have come to the notice of Government during this year?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I am afraid I have not got that information in my possession.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What are the countries included in or excluded from the reciprocal copyright arrangements?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I have not got that information.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS IN STATES

***893. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state if it is a fact that Rajasthan is rich in ancient and Historical Monuments, Archaeological sites and remains?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take these under their own control and preserve them?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of extending Archaeological survey to other States Unions and Merged States to protect the national wealth of India?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A proposal to take over the ancient and historical monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance from the Unions of States including Rajasthan is under the consideration of the Government of India. The functions of the Central Archaeological Department have been extended to the Merged States also.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What amount has been set apart or earmarked for this purpose by the Government?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: How does it arise out of this question, Sir?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether a list of these monuments has been prepared by the Government and will it be made available to the House?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: If the Honourable Member is keen about it, I would see that he gets a copy of it.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is there a proposal before Government to take over the ancient libraries and manuscripts that are in the possession of these merged states?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: As I said, Government is considering this matter.

F. P. S. C. EXAMINATION FOR ASSISTANTS

***894. Thakur Krishna Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the F.P.S.C. will hold an examination in April, 1950 to select candidates for confirmation in the grade of Assistants?

(b) Is it a fact that the graduates serving in the Central Secretariat and its attached offices have been permitted to take the said examination?

(c) Is it also a fact that graduates serving in the A.F.H.Q. have been debarred from appearing in the above mentioned examination?

(d) If so, what are the reasons for this differential treatment?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, provided they have put in one year's service as Assistant in offices participating in the Central Secretariat Service (Reorganisation and Reinforcement) Scheme.

(c) Yes, unless they had previously served as assistants for at least a year in the participating offices.

(d) Posts in the Air Force Head Quarters are not included in the Central Secretariat scheme. They get the benefit of a separate scheme applicable to Air Force Head Quarters.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: In view of the fact that the Government of India have reserved a certain quota for the Harijans in the services, will the Honourable Minister instruct the Federal Public Service Commission to fill up that quota?

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

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO AJMER MUNICIPALITY

*895. **Shri Gokul Lal Asawa:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara has nominated three members on the Ajmer Municipal Committee from amongst the majority community;

(b) whether the said nominations from amongst the members of the majority community are not *ultra vires* of Ajmer-Merwara Municipalities Regulation, 1925 (VI of 1925) sub-section 2(ii) of Section 8 of the Regulation and of the powers conferred therefrom upon the Chief Commissioner; and

(c) whether this matter has been brought to the notice of Government and if so, what steps have been taken by the Government in the matter?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, has nominated three persons to the Ajmer Municipal Committee from among the displaced persons who came to Ajmer from Sind.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. Government have satisfied themselves that the action of the Chief Commissioner is legally in order.

Shri Gokul Lal Asawa: Under what section of the Ajmer-Merwara Municipal Regulations were these nominations made?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The life of the municipal committee was coming to an end and it has been extended up to the 31st of March. Therefore, the Chief Commissioner has a right to nominate. I do not know under what section of the Act it was done.

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: May I know whether any political parties were consulted before these nominations?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that recently all the Members of the Delhi Municipal Committee have also been nominated and there is no elected municipality in Delhi now?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That question need not be answered.

FAMINE CONDITIONS IN RAJASTHAN

*896. **Shri Gokul Lal Asawa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there are scarcity conditions in some parts and famine conditions in other parts of Rajasthan?

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(b) What is the extent of the areas in which (i) scarcity conditions, and (ii) famine conditions, prevail?

(c) What is the number of persons and cattle affected in these areas?

(d) What is the number of persons and cattle that have migrated to other places?

(e) What steps have been taken by the Government of India as well as the Rajasthan Government in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Only scarcity prevails in a major portion of Jodhpur and part of Udaipur Divisions.

(b) (i) 48,000 sq. miles.

(ii) Does not arise.

(c) The total population of the area affected is about 25 lakhs. The figure for cattle is not available.

(d) Approximately 10,000 persons and 20,000 cattle.

(e) Free fodder supply, cheap grain shops and relief works (road construction, tank excavations, etc.) to provide employment have been started throughout the affected area. Rs. 40 lakhs have been sanctioned so far for relief measures and more will be sanctioned if necessary.

Shri Gokul Lal Asawa: Is the Government aware that one Mr. Nandalal of Marwar is on hunger strike feeling aggrieved by the policy of the Rajasthan Government in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That will spare some food for the famine area.

Shri Jainarayan Vyas: Is the Government aware that the fodder was supplied after the majority of cattle had migrated from Rajasthan?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Government is not aware of it.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know the total quantity of cheap fodder imported into Rajasthan?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no figures with me.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has this region been declared a 'famine area'?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that in some parts of Rajasthan there is a surplus of fodder and also of food-grains which is not allowed to be transported to places which are affected by scarcity conditions?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, Sir.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether any feeding arrangements have been made for invalids and children who cannot work on relief works?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of course all arrangements have been made for invalids or destitutes.

FILMING OF *The River*

***897. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accorded permission to a foreign producer to film a book called *The River* by Ruymer Godden; and

(b) is it a fact that the book gives a distorted picture of Indian life and culture?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the attention of the Minister of State been drawn to a report in the *Hindustan Times* recently to the effect that permission has been given by Government to a foreign producer to film this book *The River*?

Mr. Speaker: How does that question arise? The Honourable Minister has already answered part (a) of the question in the negative.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the policy of the Government, Sir, in regard to foreign producers making films in India about Indian life? Have they to obtain a permit, or can they come and do whatever they like?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: No permission is required.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is care taken at least to see that these foreign producers do not abuse our hospitality to the extent of making anti-Indian films in our country?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: That question has been referred to the Film Enquiry Committee and when they make their recommendations suitable action will be taken.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether it is a fact that Government have no authority under the law as it stands at present to give or refuse permission to a film before it is made?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: If it is shown here then the ordinary laws of censorship operate.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: My question relates to grant of, or refusal of, permission before a film is made.

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: There is no law to that effect at present.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Minister of State aware whether Indian producers can go to a foreign country like England and produce films there without permission—is there any reciprocity?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I have no information of laws in other countries.

FILMING OF *Kim* BY M.G.M.

***898. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item supplied by the film critic *The Nation*, Calcutta, in its issue dated the 22nd October 1949, to the effect that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has completed all arrangements for filming Rudyard Kipling's *Kim* in India;

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(b) whether the report is correct;

(c) whether the shooting of the film has already begun; and

(d) whether Government are aware that *Kim* the book on which the film is based is anti-Indian in parts?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government have no information on the point beyond the reports in the press.

(d) The script on which the film is based, it is understood is not anti-Indian.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

***899. Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether recommendations of the Pay Commission have been implemented regarding the educational institutions in the Centrally Administered Areas?

(b) If so, what is the monthly pay of the Headmaster in Government High schools and Government aided High schools in these areas?

(c) What is the additional grant Government have made to the aided institutions (High schools)?

(d) What is the number of these institutions and the number of students studying therein?

(e) What is the number of Government aided colleges in these areas?

(f) What is the additional grant made to them and what is the number of students studying therein?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) to (f). A statement giving the necessary information in respect of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg is placed on the Table of the House (See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 4.)

ATTACHED OFFICES UNDER THE MINISTRIES

***900. Maulana Hasrat Mohani:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names together with the dates of establishment of Attached Offices under the different Ministries created since 1st January, 1946 and what the total number of officers and ministerial establishment in each of these Attached Offices is?

(b) How is the status of an office decided by the Government and what are the conditions for determining whether an office is an Attached Office?

(c) Are there any offices whose status has not yet been decided?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (c). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) The status of an office is determined on the basis of the nature of duties it performs and its relations to Government. While no hard and fast rule can

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

be or has been laid down, generally, offices which, though not directly responsible for the framing of policy, perform duties which are more akin to Secretariat than to executive work and have to maintain close collaboration with Government are recognised as Attached Offices.

QUALIFIED STENOGRAPHERS

†*901. **Maulana Hasrat Mohani:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of stenographers who were declared successful as a result of the examination conducted by the F.P.S.C. in May 1949?

(b) How many permanent vacancies of stenographers exist at present in the Secretariat and Attached Offices?

(c) In case the number of permanent vacancies is less than the number of successful stenographers, how is it proposed to absorb the remaining stenographers in the Secretariat and Attached Offices and how long will it take to do so?

(d) How will the seniority of a qualified stenographer be maintained?

(e) Will it be on the length of service in the grade or will a stenographer, who fails to qualify in the first test but qualifies at the second time at a higher rate of speed, rank above the one who qualifies at a lower rate in the first test?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 511.

(b) About 210.

(c) Stenographers successful in the Test held in May, 1949, along with those who had already passed the proficiency Test and those successful in the next two Tests, will be absorbed not only in the existing permanent vacancies but also in such permanent vacancies as may arise as long as the lists are in force. The rest will have further opportunities to be confirmed in vacancies reserved for quasi-permanent employees provided they qualify for quasi-permanent appointment.

(d) and (e). Seniority of stenographers will be determined on the basis of their length of continuous service in the stenographers' grade and/or in an equivalent grade.

RETIREMENT BENEFIT TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

*902. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply to my Starred Question No. 1460 asked on the 29th March, 1949 and state whether the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission regarding the retirement benefit are still under consideration?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how long will Government take to come to a decision?

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

(b) Government are making every effort to arrive at a very early decision in the matter and it is hoped orders will be issued during the course of the next two months.

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

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BACKWARD CLASSES AND SCHEDULED CASTES

*903. **Dr. Raghunandan Prasad:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) The amount of scholarships sanctioned for the current year and the last three years (i) for the students of the scheduled castes, (ii) for the students of the scheduled tribes, and (iii) for the students of backward classes;

(b) the number of applications received from the students of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes during this period;

(c) the number of students of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes who received the above scholarships during this period;

(d) whether the amount of scholarship for the students of scheduled castes of India is sufficient for the number of students; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to increase the amount of scholarship according to the number of students? If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs):

			Rs.
(a)	Scheduled Castes.	1946-47	= 4,70,397
		1947-48	= 5,39,307
		1948-49	= 4,06,331
		1949-50 (Current year)	= 6,00,000
	Scheduled Tribes.	1946-47	= Nil.
		1947-48	= Nil.
		1948-49	= 45,986
		1949-50 (Current year)	= 1,00,000
	Backward Classes.	1946-47	= Nil.
		1947-48	= Nil.
		1948-49	= Nil.
		1949-50 (Current year)	= 3,00,000
(b)	Scheduled Castes.	1946-47	= 910
		1947-48	= 1,450
		1948-49	= 1,500
		1949-50 (Current year)	= 2,675
	Scheduled Tribes.	1946-47	= Nil.
		1947-48	= Nil.
		1948-49	= 350
		1949-50 (Current year)	= 405
	Backward Classes.	1946-47	= Nil.
		1947-48	= Nil.
		1948-49	= Nil.
		1949-50 (Current year)	= 3,045
(c)	Scheduled Castes.	1946-47	= 527
		1947-48	= 532
		1948-49	= 642
		1949-50 (Current year)	= 911
	Scheduled Tribes.	1946-47	= Nil.
		1947-48	= Nil.
		1948-49	= 80
		1949-50 (Current year)	= 201
	Backward Classes.	1946-47	= Nil.
		1947-48	= Nil.
		1948-49	= Nil.
		1949-50 (Current year)	= 392

(d) and (e). In view of the number of students deserving help the amount cannot be considered sufficient but taking into consideration the funds available, we have done the best that is possible and it is proposed to increase the grants during 1951-52 and subsequent years if funds permit.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know by how much the Government propose to increase the amount in subsequent years?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I cannot say.

Shri A. Karunakara Menon: Are these amounts distributed in one lump sum or in instalments?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: In instalments, I suppose.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Is there any scheme to give the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes stipends for foreign education?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I have no information on that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any quota fixed for each of the various provinces and States in India?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: No.

Shri Upendranath Barman: May I know whether a 20 per cent. cut has been applied in the stipends to the students this year?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I do not know.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Is it a fact that the scholarship awarded to the Scheduled Caste students in the Pusa Institute, Delhi, is insufficient for their maintenance, books, boarding and lodging?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Might be.

LAND FOR EX-MILITARY MEN

***904. Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are allotting lands to ex-military personnel in Tarai and Bhabar areas of Nainital district in U.P.?

(b) If so, what principles or conditions have been laid down for allotment of land to ex-military personnel under this scheme?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The U.P. Government has a scheme for allotting land to ex-Service personnel in the Tarai and Bhabar areas, under the Post-war Resettlement Scheme, after the land has been reclaimed.

(b) The U.P. Government will select settlers in consultation with the Defence authorities. The selection is governed by the following conditions: (i) That a selected person is an ex-serviceman or, if serving, about to be released, and has served in the 2nd World War up to August, 1945. (ii) That the selected person will settle on the land and cultivate it himself. (iii) That he does not already possess in his own name an economic holding.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know whether invalided persons will be allotted land or not? That is to say, whether persons who retired prior to 1945 will also have land allotted or not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: All those persons who have served in the World War II up to 1945 are entitled.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: My question was whether Government intends to allot land to those persons also who retired on invalid pension prior to 1945 but who served in World War II.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Those who served up to 1945 are entitled definitely, but I think the Honourable Member has got the cases of some persons in his mind who were invalided before 1945. I am not in a position to give any definite information on that point.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Do Government propose to consider their cases?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I will have that looked up.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are the ex-soldiers who served in the I.N.A. of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose eligible under this scheme?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to consider the eligibility of these ex-I.N.A. men under this scheme?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion for action.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether the scheme for allotting land to ex-Servicemen is restricted to the U.P. or does it cover other provinces and States also?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As far as I know from the information that I have in my file, it relates to the U.P. only.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Is any land to be allotted in Eastern Rajasthan?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid these questions will not arise. The question specifically refers to U.P. Therefore the Honourable Minister has got information about U.P. only.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know whether all persons who remained prisoners of war up to 1945 will be entitled to have land allotted?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: All who come under the category of ex-Servicemen or Servicemen about to be released will be entitled.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know whether there is any plan to allot land to ex-I.N.A. personnel?

Mr. Speaker: This is only putting the same question in a different form.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know what extent of land is allotted to the soldiers and whether it is an economic unit?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No area has been specified but we do take into consideration that the land that is allotted is an economic holding.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know the total acreage that is to be allotted to ex-soldiers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The total area made available by the U.P. Government is 10,000 acres.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the reasons for the ineligibility of ex-I.N.A. men under this scheme?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

PERMISSION FOR TAKING OUT PROCESSION

*905. **Maulana Hasrat Mohani:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that permission was granted to the Socialist Party, Jama Masjid Unit, for taking out a procession on 29th November, 1949 protesting against the prevailing blackmarketing, corruption and bribery;

(b) if so, what led the Deputy Commissioner to refuse permission for the use of loud speakers during the procession to utter slogans; and

(c) why discrimination is made against other political parties when Congress Committees are given permission to use loud speakers for announcing Public Meetings?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Permission was refused in accordance with the general policy not to allow the use of loud speakers during processions.

(c) In the absence of any specific instances, from the Honourable Member, I am not prepared to assume the existence of any discrimination.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ECONOMY COMMITTEE

38. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Report of the Economy Committee of the Government of India is out now?

(b) If not, how long will it take to be out?

(c) The expenditure incurred on the Economy Committee of the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the Floor of the House on the 15th December, 1949, to Starred Question No. 622 by Shri R. K. Sidhva.

(c) Rs. 2,51,850.

RADIO STATION FOR CALICUT

39. **Shri P. Kunhiraman:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state what steps are being taken to open a Broadcasting Station at Calicut before the end of the current financial year as already announced?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Efforts are being made to secure a suitable building so that the broadcasting station can go on the air during the current financial year.

'BASIC PLAN' AND ECONOMY COMMITTEE

40. **Shri P. Kunhiraman:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri N. G. Ayyangar's report on "Basic Plan" for India Government Reorganisation has been considered by Government;

(b) if so, whether it has been approved *in toto* or with modifications;

(c) if it has been modified, what those modifications are;

+ Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent.

(d) what is the number of (i) Secretaries, (ii) Joint Secretaries, (iii) Deputy Secretaries, (iv) Under Secretaries, and (v) Assistant Secretaries, in the Central Secretariat (1) as it exists at present (2) as per report of Economy Committee and (3) as per report of Sri N. G. Ayyangar's Basic Plan;

(e) what is the saving contemplated as compared with the existing system by (i) the adoption of Economy Committee's recommendations and (ii) the adoption of recommendation of Mr. Ayyangar's Basic Plans;

(f) whether Government propose to continue the present three categories of members of the Council of Ministers (Cabinet, State, and Deputy Ministers) with no change in their respective numbers, when India attains the status of a Republic on the 26th January, 1950; and

(g) if the answer to part (f) above be in the negative what are the changes contemplated?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (c). The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar has presented a report on the reorganisation of the machinery of Government. This report is at present under the consideration of Government and no decision has yet been taken.

(d) The numbers of Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Under/Assistant Secretaries in Ministries and Departments other than Railways were 25, 41, 95 and 247 respectively on the 1st September, 1949. The Railway Ministry had 42 Officers of comparable status. The information regarding the Economy Committee's recommendations is contained in the report of the Committee which has been laid on the Table of the House. Since Shri Ayyangar's report is still under consideration, it will not be appropriate to give any details from that report.

(e) In view of the fact that Shri Ayyangar's report is still under consideration, it would be premature to make any comparisons.

(f) and (g). These are matters which arise out of Shri Ayyangar's report and a decision will be reached in that connection.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHEREABOUTS OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to press reports and statements appearing from time to time suggesting that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is alive and that he might be staying somewhere in China;

(b) whether Government have any information or evidence in their possession about the reported whereabouts or death of Netaji which leads to any definite conclusion;

(c) whether Government made any enquiries subsequent to the 15th August, 1947 about the reported circumstances of Netaji's death and if so, whether these enquiries confirm that Netaji died as a result of the reported air crash at Taihoku; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in negative whether the Government of India propose to undertake further enquiries about the whereabouts of Netaji?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) All the information in the possession of the Government leads to the conclusion that Shri Subhas Bose is no longer alive but the Honourable Member is probably aware that his brother has different views on the subject.

(c) Inquiries have been made and point to the same conclusion referred to above.

(d) Does not arise.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sardar Hukam Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 'Jana Gana Mana' has been decided to be adopted as the National Anthem?

(b) If so, who has decided it?

(c) Was any reference made to the Constituent Assembly before its adoption?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) to (c). 'Jana Gana Mana' has been widely used in India and abroad by military bands and orchestras on official occasions as the National Anthem. This decision was made by Government till such time as the Constituent Assembly should give its final decision.

At the instance of the Honourable the President of the Constituent Assembly, a meeting of the Steering Committee was held last November, to consider the question of the National Anthem. At this meeting some others specially interested in this matter were also invited. It was decided that while this was not a matter for inclusion in the Constitution, it should be decided by a resolution of the Constituent Assembly, as in the case of the National Flag. It is intended to bring this matter up before the Constituent Assembly about the time it meets for the election of the President. Meanwhile a large number of experiments have been made and eminent composers consulted about the exact tune and score of the 'Jana Gana Mana' which should be selected. All India Radio had invited many members of the Constituent Assembly as well as a number of officers of the Defence Services to listen to these various versions so that their advice and opinion may be taken in regard to it. Some members took advantage of this invitation.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I want to enquire of the Honourable the Prime Minister whether any steps were taken by the Government to try orchestration or scoring with regard to the song 'Bandemataram'?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: To some extent, yes. We received a number of such scores and they were played and listened to.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I want to enquire of the Honourable the Prime Minister whether at the instance of the Government of India any effort was made by the military orchestra of the Government of India to set this song to tune, or whether this 'Bandemataram' song was sent out to foreign countries for trial at orchestration?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: A number of military bands did play from the orchestration that has already been prepared for it, but most of our military officers and the bands said it was totally unsuitable for them. They could not easily play it. I am not quite sure whether any efforts were made in foreign countries. But I have an idea in foreign countries too, that is in London, they did have some orchestration, and they also did not form a very favourable opinion of it from the orchestral point of view.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I would like to know if the Honourable the Prime Minister has appointed a committee of experts from among the musicians or from the Military Department, to go into the whole question of trying alternate tunes or orchestration for the song?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We appointed no committee. The All-India Radio has been doing this work on behalf of government.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: In addition to 'Jana Gana Mana' and 'Bandemataram', is there any other song which government has experimented on for adoption, as the National Anthem?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: At this stage, government does not come into the picture, because the matter will have to be decided by the Constituent Assembly. As I said, the Honourable President of the Constituent Assembly held a small conference for this purpose, and the opinion of that conference was, more or less, on the lines suggested, that is, from the point of view of orchestration and playing on bands and orchestras, it was thought that 'Jana Gana Mana' was obviously suited, and has been a remarkable success in foreign countries as well as in India. From the point of view of a national song, all of them thought that 'Bandemataram' had a very peculiar and special position which should be maintained.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I wanted to know from the Honourable the Prime Minister if the Government has asked the musical experts of the All India Radio to try 'Bandemataram' at orchestration. I am told they are experimenting only on records. I wanted to know whether the Government of India have asked the All-India Radio's musical experts to try orchestration of the 'Bandemataram'.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India have not asked them to do anything. They have left it to them to consider these matters, and they occasionally play this song. They have not got, so far as I know, a band at their disposal. They prepare scores and the military bands play them. Sometimes they play it on the radio.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Were the musical experts who examined the 'Jana Gana Mana' were also asked to examine the 'Bandemataram'?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, it is difficult to answer, because some were consulted, but not those particular ones. Some foreign experts have been consulted and I have informed the House the general reaction from the orchestral point of view. 'Jana Gana Mana' was also referred to certain very eminent composers. Whatever song is selected has to be suitable from the point of view of tune to be played by bands and orchestras. At the same time, it should be good, that is, from the point of view of both eastern and western music. It must have the eastern element in it, and it must also have that part of the western element which enables it to be popularly played by bands and orchestras. To combine these two, we must have had some twenty variations of them. I don't know how many of the Honourable Members listened to it, when they were invited. The 'Bandemataram' was tried several times and these foreign experts thought there was not sufficient variation in it. I am not a musician and I cannot describe these things; but they say there is no sufficient variety in the tune to be effective in orchestration.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if the Government have received any complaints with regard to the use of the names of portions of a foreign country in the body of the 'Jana Gana Mana' song?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member is referring to the wording of the song, presumably, not to the tune but to the wording.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Yes, that song contains the name of the soil of a foreign country.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not received any complaint, but I have heard talk about it. Some people have said that it should not be there. Others have vigorously said that it should remain there. The main thing for consideration is not the language but the general tune. The language can easily be varied after the general scheme of things has been approved of

Mr. Speaker: I do not propose to allow any further question.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Saturday, 24th December, 1949

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

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HOLD UP OF RAW JUTE BOUND FOR INDIA BY PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Government have held up a very large quantity of raw jute purchased in Pakistan on behalf of Indian firms, and laid on barges and bound for India; if so, how much and when;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Government have held up a considerable quantity of raw jute in transit from one part of India to another through Pakistan territory; if so, how much, when and where;

(c) the circumstances leading to the hold up in either case; and

(d) whether Government have taken or propose to take, action in the matter?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: With your permission, Sir, I should like to take this opportunity of making a statement explaining in some detail the latest developments in our trade and commercial relations with Pakistan. The House is aware that these have been based on a series of Trade Agreements, the last of which was entered into in June 1949. These Agreements proceeded on a recognition by both countries of the importance of continuing arrangements regarding the supply by each country of the requirements of the other and to do all that is necessary for the purpose. Thus, under the 1949 Agreement, which is valid for the period July 1949 to June 1950, Pakistan agreed to make available to India four million bales of raw jute and 450,000 bales of cotton, while India was to make available to Pakistan 150,000 bales of cotton textiles, 80,000 tons of steel and 2 million tons of coal. I have mentioned only the principal commodities. I should add in this connection that India is herself an importer of large quantities of steel from the hard currency countries, nevertheless we agreed to supply steel to Pakistan in order to preserve as far as possible the traditional pattern of trade.

Soon after the 1949 Trade Agreement was signed, it became clear that Pakistan was not serious about implementing it. For instance, far from helping the import of cotton textiles from India into Pakistan, they actually took measures to restrict this trade. It is stated in the Agreement that the import of Indian textiles into Pakistan was governed by Open General Licence. But the Indian textiles were frozen on arrival while textiles from other countries were allowed to be sold freely. Thus there was positive discrimination against Indian textiles—a discrimination which they continued to maintain in spite of representations. Towards the end of September we were suddenly informed that the O.G.L. for the import of several commodities from India including textiles had been suspended temporarily. This was followed by a proposal to cancel the O.G.L. for mill-made textiles from all countries including India. Not only were our protests ignored, but Pakistan went a step further. On the 12th November Pakistan published by notification a list of countries from which no import of textiles would be allowed. India was included in this list. The Inter-Dominion Agreement for free movement of certain types of handloom cloth was never implemented by them, although we on our part continued to import handloom cloth from East Bengal.

In spite of the difficulties over textiles, India continued to buy jute in the normal way and there were no difficulties to start with. I should explain at this stage that it has always been the custom for Indian buyers to purchase jute through agents whom they finance. As a rule the agents pay for the jute on the spot in Pakistan. In this way as much as 12 lakhs of bales of raw jute had been purchased in Pakistan by the middle of September. Since then, Indian buyers have found it virtually impossible to make fresh purchases of Pakistan jute owing to its high cost. Meanwhile the movement of jute already purchased began to be interfered with. These difficulties became even more acute after the establishment of the Pakistan Jute Board. This body has not only fixed minimum prices but is also exercising certain checks on exports of raw jute. Under their orders as much as 5 lakh bales out of the 12 lakh bales purchased by India have been held up in Pakistan. All this jute is clearly Indian property, having been paid for long before the Jute Board had been established. A large portion of this jute has been passed by the Pakistan customs; the Pakistan export duty has been paid and the jute has actually been loaded in barges and flats. The hold up of this jute is thus inexplicable and clearly indefensible. Repeated attempts were made by the Indian buyers and their agents to get this jute released. Claims were made to the Jute Board, both verbally and in writing. The steamer companies produced before the Jute Board evidence regarding dates of loading. All this produced no result except admissions in principle by the Jute Board that the jute which is Indian property would be released. To find out what precisely had to be done to secure the release of this jute the Indian Jute Mills Association sent a representative to discuss the matter with the Board, but his visit proved equally fruitless. It became clearer every day that the formalities regarding proof of transactions, were only being used as a pretext to detain the jute. Numerous buyers who were naturally anxious to comply with all necessary formalities individually approached the Jute Board and other authorities for clarification and advice about the action expected of them, but none of them was given any clear ideas about the precise formalities to be complied with or the nature of the proof of payments, contracts, etc. which they had to produce to the Jute Board. Others wrote to the Jute Board on these matters, but their letters were left unanswered. All this time the jute had been deteriorating. The Government of India, therefore, brought these facts to the notice of the Pakistan Government and requested them to release the jute immediately, and to facilitate a quick decision even went to the length of offering arbitration to settle outstanding claims on either side. But the reply from

Pakistan was that the proposal for arbitration was premature, that the reasons for the detention of jute had been misrepresented to us, that detention of jute was actually a nuisance to Pakistan, and that Indian buyers had failed to take advantage of their simple and easy procedure for making claims. These statements are completely at variance with the facts which I have already stated. The value of the Indian owned jute lying in Pakistan for over three months runs into crores of rupees. When this money is locked up, when the jute is lying exposed and is deteriorating and losing value every day, it cannot be seriously suggested that the owners have failed to make their claims, or that the procedure is easy and simple as represented by Pakistan. The inference is irresistible that the procedure, if any, is really designed to hold up all movements of jute.

The detention and obstruction to movement of jute is not confined to Pakistan grown jute bought by Indian nationals. Such obstruction has of late been extended to Indian jute in transit from Assam through Pakistan to Calcutta. A number of barges and flats loaded with Assam jute are also being held up at various points in Pakistan. To our knowledge there are thirty of them carrying nearly a hundred thousand bales. The detention of Pakistan jute bought by Indian nationals, taken together with the obstruction to the movement of Indian jute in transit through Pakistan can lead only to one conclusion, namely that Pakistan is deliberately denying jute to Indian jute mills with a view to exercising economic pressure on the industry. There have been many other cases of hold up of transit goods, particularly of railway stores required for the Assam railway link.

To make matters worse, the Pakistan Government have in some cases called upon the Steamer Companies to unload the barges in Pakistan, the result of which would be further deterioration of the jute. In any case, detention of these barges is immobilising river transport and causing congestion on the riverways which constitute the main artery of communication between Calcutta and Assam, apart from such action resulting in the infliction of hardship and losses on the steamer companies.

The supply of jute by Pakistan to India, and of coal by India to Pakistan are among the cardinal features of the trade agreement. India has throughout consistently fulfilled her obligation of supplying coal. Pakistan, on the other hand, far from facilitating the supply of jute is deliberately obstructing such supply to India.

The Trade Agreement, which both countries accepted only a few months ago as the basis of their mutual commercial relations is thus being honoured by Pakistan only to the extent of receiving in full their monthly quota of coal. Some days ago, we pointed out to the Pakistan Government that unless there is reciprocity we shall have to reconsider our attitude to the agreement itself. The Pakistan Government in their reply have argued that the only obstacle in the way of the fulfilment of the agreement is India's failure to recognise their rate of exchange. This is not understandable at all. If Pakistan wishes to maintain a certain rate of exchange with other currencies, it is obviously her business to buy and sell other currencies at that rate. But, even the Pakistan State Bank does not buy or sell Indian Rupees. On the other hand, banks and individuals are prevented from doing so, except at the rate of exchange notified by Pakistan. Apparently, no one is able to do business on these terms. In this connection Honourable Members will recall that for some time after devaluation trade continued between the two countries, although on a reduced scale, until the Pakistan Rupee came to be quoted at par with or even below the Indian Rupee. It was then that the Pakistan Government issued orders prohibiting their Banks to buy or sell Indian Rupees except at the rate of exchange notified by them. Any impediment to trade and commerce on account

of exchange difficulties is therefore due to Pakistan's own regulations. Banks in India are free to buy or sell Pakistan Rupees, without restriction.

We had on more than one occasion in the past suggested a Customs Union or other similar arrangements with Pakistan but there has been no response whatever. A formal and duly ratified Agreement which had resulted from my personal discussions with the Pakistan Finance Minister in March last contemplated a conference to be held as soon as possible to find ways and means of relaxing import and export regulations to encourage and expand trade between the two countries. No conference has however yet been held. It has been postponed on some ground or other advanced by the Pakistan Government. Meanwhile, we have tried to discharge our obligations under the Trade Agreement. But the operation of the Trade Agreement amounts now only to the export of coal from India. There is no other trade between the two countries. On the other hand an enormous quantity of jute purchased and paid for by our nationals is being deliberately detained. The Government of India decided not to allow this situation to continue indefinitely [*Honourable Members*: "Hear, hear".] A telegram was therefore sent to Pakistan on the 20th of this month in which the offer of arbitration was reiterated and Pakistan requested immediately to release all our raw jute. Till yesterday morning we had no reply. We were, therefore, compelled to suspend temporarily despatches of coal to Pakistan from yesterday [*Honourable Members*: "Hear, hear".] and we have informed the Pakistan Government accordingly. We have also informed the Pakistan Government that as soon as resumption of trade is rendered possible by them particularly by the release of raw jute, we shall be prepared not only to resume supplies of coal but even to make up the short supplies.

I hope, Sir, that in the circumstances stated by me, the Government will have the fullest support of the House in the action taken by them.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Sir, may I ask one or two supplementaries?

Mr. Speaker: I won't be able to permit any supplementaries on this. Honourable Members will realise that in reply to the Short Notice Question, the Honourable Minister was pleased to make a statement and it will not be useful without having a full debate, to allow a few supplementaries here and there.

I also understand that a copy of the statement is being circulated to Honourable Members.

TELEPHONES IN WEST BENGAL.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether he is now in a position to give any further information in connection with my Starred Question No. 827 asked on 21st December, 1949, regarding telephones in West Bengal?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Sir, with your permission, in reply to this question, I will make a statement explaining the new scheme of telephones in industrial cities.

In answer to Question No. 827 on December 21, 1949 it was stated that in the Budget for the current year a provision was made for starting the work on the scheme of re-modelling the Calcutta Telephone System, and also for opening 8 new Exchanges and for expanding 10 of the existing Exchanges in the mofussil towns of the West Bengal. But on account of the Economy Cut the programme has been reduced to the opening of only 4 new Exchanges and to the expansion of 6 of the existing Exchanges. This was because the work

on Calcutta Re-modelling and on the opening of 4 and on the expanding of 6 Exchanges had already started. For the next year no provision was made for any new Exchange or for the expansion of any existing Exchange although the scheme for Calcutta has been retained.

The war had practically stopped the normal development of Telephone communication system for civilian use while war industries and trade had caused a rush of applications for new connections. There was no equipment available immediately after the war and, therefore, the ever-increasing demand for new telephone connections could not be met. Today every city, big and small, has got a large number of applicants on the waiting-list. There is also great demand of opening new Telephone Exchanges in places where there are no telephones.

Keeping all this in mind the Department had prepared a very ambitious scheme for expanding telephone service in places where it is in existence and opening telephone exchanges in towns where none exists today. It was not possible to find money for all these schemes. But at the time of the last Budget a provision of about Rs. 6 crores was made for expanding telephone service in some of the cities and for opening exchanges in a large number of small towns. At some of these places the work had already begun when one after another, for want of funds, two cuts were imposed and today we find our provision for telephones reduced to half the amount required for the work in hand.

It was not possible to complete all the work contemplated within the limit of the funds available, i.e., Rs. 3 crores. We had to abandon a large number of schemes and were trying to complete the work already started.

As the House is aware we had prepared a scheme for automatization of Calcutta telephones. The scheme is to cost us about Rs. 14½ crores. The scheme was to be completed in five years' time and the money required for 1950-51 is estimated to exceed Rs. 3 crores.

As I have mentioned the provision for the current year for telephones is only about Rs. 3 crores. It is difficult to anticipate that a larger amount will be available for the next year. For the next year the scheme for expansion in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras would alone exceed Rs. 4 crores. The choice before the Department was either to confine the expansion schemes to these three cities or to abandon the schemes and continue the schemes for other areas. It was a difficult choice. But my reaction was to abandon Calcutta and Bombay expansion and to confine our activities to establishing telephone exchanges in places where it does not exist today. At this stage a suggestion was put forward that in industrial towns people will be willing to pay for the Equipment and there should be no hesitation to extend telephone facilities to those who are prepared to pay. The proposal was examined and it has been accepted.

As the House is aware the Department has established a Telephone Factory at Bangalore where the work has already started and it is expected that in about four years time the Factory will go in full production. Besides, the Department runs three Workshops which give employment to a large number of persons and are capable of manufacturing most of our requirements for the schemes of expansion. If we confine the expansion to the limit of the funds made available, we will have to considerably slow down the progress of the Telephone Factory and to retrench 35 per cent. of the workers in the three workshops.

The scheme as now accepted is that in certain specified industrial cities, with certain exceptions explained later, the new telephone connections will be

given only if the subscriber pays down what is estimated as the total capital cost of a telephone connection. The cities included are Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Delhi, Kanpur, Ahmedabad and Amritsar. The capital amount to be paid down will be Rs. 2,500 at Calcutta and Bombay and Rs. 2,000 at other places. On payment of this amount the subscriber will be provided with a telephone connection. *Bona fide* transfers will be allowed as *e.g.*, on closure or transfer of business, provided that in the case of closure Government will have the right to take back the connection and refund proportionate amount. On an average the life of a connection is estimated at 20 years so that the contract for service and maintenance of the telephone will be for this period. The subscriber will pay for the service at the usual rate, *i.e.*, on message rates, but will not pay any rent as he has paid for the cost of the equipment. He will, however, pay the Department Rs. 2 a month for the maintenance of the telephone.

I have referred to certain exceptions. Public institutions, persons of medical profession, publicmen and deserving refugees who are on the Priority List will have the option to get the telephone on the existing rates. All others will get the telephones under this new scheme. The progress of the expansion schemes in Calcutta and Bombay and other cities will depend upon the money we are thus able to raise in these cities.

The new scheme will be available to existing subscribers also at their option. It would be for them to decide whether the further advantages explained later will not make it worthwhile to opt for the new scheme.

For subscribers in Calcutta and Bombay (including the existing subscribers) who wish to take advantage of the new scheme, the rates will be as follows:

Initial	Rs. 2,500/-
Maintenance	Rs. 2/- a month
Call Fee	10 calls to the rupee with a rebate of 6½ per cent. for prompt payment.
for other places—	
Initial	Rs. 2,000/-
Maintenance	Rs. 2/- a month
Call Fee	12 calls to the rupee with a rebate of 6½ per cent. for prompt payment.

The scheme will be given effect to forthwith. Instructions will be issued that for the present with the exception of persons included in the exempted categories or of public institutions, no telephone connection will be given to any person in any of the cities included in the new scheme except in accordance with the terms and conditions of this new scheme. Pending finalization of a proper form of contract, deposits covering the full amounts will be received, allotments being made in the order of receipts of the deposit. If a telephone connection is not given within six months from the date of deposit, interest at a suitable rate will be paid for the period in excess of six months.

I have received a letter from Mr. Ajit Prasad Jain, urging that an exception should be made in favour of persons who need telephone but who cannot make the lump payment. I would like to point out to him that under the schemes that Department will be undertaking from the funds allotted, the present rates of payment will continue and no discrimination will be made between the person who can make a deposit and the person who cannot. It is only where the Department has got no funds for the purchase of the equipment and has invited the subscriber to contribute the cost, that the new

scheme will be enforced. But even here exception has been made in favour of certain categories which I hope includes all the cases Mr. Ajit Prasad had in mind when he wrote the letter.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Sir, I want to raise a question of privilege of the House in connection with the statement which has been made. My point is this. On the 21st, in connection with Starred Question No. 786, my Honourable friend Mr. Mohan Lal Gautam asked a supplementary question, "Will Government take this House into confidence before implementing this scheme?" The reply of the Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai was that, if this House happens to meet when the final decision is taken, it will be placed before this House. Now, Sir, that was a definite understanding given to this House. Today I find that the Honourable Minister says that he has finalised the scheme, without putting it before the House. A promise once given by an Honourable Minister in this House, Sir, I submit, must be fulfilled. I would like to know how far the Honourable Minister is justified in finalising the scheme before placing it in this House when he gave this definite undertaking to the House.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I have fulfilled that undertaking.

Mr. Speaker: I could not follow what undertaking was given.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: A question was put in this House whether I will take the House into confidence when the scheme has been finalised.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Before it has been finalised.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I promised, if this House is in session, I will take the first opportunity of making a statement before this House. That is what I have done today.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Now, Sir...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let it not be argued. We will consider the matter later on if necessary.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Are not supplementaries allowed to this?

Mr. Speaker: No.

