



**MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
DEBATES**

263

OFFICIAL REPORT

THURSDAY, 9TH MARCH 1950

VOLUME I—No. 8

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT
GOVERNMENT PRESS
MADRAS
1950

PRICE, 4 annas

D
V211327N50
N50.1.8
69886.

C O N T E N T S

	PAGES
I Questions list—absence of	411
II General discussion of the Budget for 1950-51— <i>cont.</i>	411-484

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 9th March 1950.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, the Deputy Chairman (SRI K. VENKATA-SWAMI NAYUDU) in the Chair.

I.—INFORMATION RE ABSENCE OF QUESTION LIST.

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Mr. Deputy Chairman, I find that there are no questions to-day. If you have advisedly omitted them, I do not question your discretion. But if it is due to the fact that answers have not been received, may I point out that some of the questions are as old as two months and request you to take necessary steps to see that the answers are received? Otherwise, the rule of seven days' notice becomes very ineffective.”

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—“ I think all questions have been sent up to the departments concerned, but the answers have not been received. As and when they are received, they will be brought before the House.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ I hope you will take necessary steps to get the answers without undue delay.”

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

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR 1950-51—*cont.*

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, at the conclusion of his Budget speech the Hon. Finance Minister hoped that all Members would help the Government by constructive criticism, only, appreciating the limitations within which the Government have to function. From the Press report of the proceedings in the other House and from the speeches made in this House, I find that his hope has not been fulfilled. There was no appreciation but there was much criticism. Most of the criticism came not from the Members of the Opposition but from the Members of the Congress Party. I am very much gratified to find that the Members of the Congress Party feel that they are there not in the Houses of Legislature merely for voting purposes but that they should contribute to the discussion and criticize the programmes and policies of the Government wherever necessary. I find that there is no difference between the attitude of the Opposition and the attitude of the supporters of the Government except in one matter. The Opposition in this House does not want to sling mud on the Ministers. Much to our regret and the regret of the people in and outside our State, an attempt is still being made to sling mud on the Ministers. At the instance of certain Members of the Congress Party, three of our eminent national leaders, men who could be world leaders, conducted an enquiry into the allegations

263

MLC. Debates

Official Report

1950, VOL. 1, NO. 8

D
V211, 32x N 50

N 50.1.8

69886

[Dr. V. K. John]

[9th March 1950]

and pronounced the verdict that no case was made out. Is it to the credit of this State that the agitation should be revived? We are not concerned with the reputation of Ministers as individuals. But the reputation of Ministers as Ministers is a matter which concerns the whole State. No Government can function efficiently unless the reputation and prestige of persons holding positions of power and responsibility in the Government are kept up. It is the wish of the Opposition and I am sure it is also the wish of many Members of the Congress Party and the people outside that no more agitation should be carried on on the alleged charges against the Ministers, for on the reputation of the Ministers depends the good Government of the country. I refer to this subject, though Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao and Janab Abdul Latif Farookhi have already referred to it, because of what Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar, said the other day. He said that the charges against Ministers were talked about in the Indian Embassies abroad which he visited. I do not suggest that no complaints should be made. But once they are made, enquired into, and disposed of, there should be no more mud-slinging on the Ministers.

The remarks made by Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar the other day regarding Judges have been misinterpreted in some quarters. I am sure he had not the slightest intention of discrediting Judges because the prestige and reputation of Judges ought always to be guarded. All that he intended was that the Judges should not enter the arena of politics. I am not sure whether that position is correct either. In England the Lord Chancellor, who is the head of the judiciary, also occupies a political position. He belongs to a particular party and takes part in the discussion in the House of Lords. I remember Lord Hewart, Chief Justice of England, chastised the Government very much when they interfered with the personal freedom of the individual. It is unfortunate that in this House we should say anything which might discredit them. We should safeguard the reputation of Ministers, High Court Judges and other persons occupying high positions in public life. I say this and I am competent to say this with authority that we have an excellent High Court of which we can be justly proud. I do not think the High Court of Madras was ever in living memory as good as it is to-day. No observation should be made which will affect the reputation of the Judges of that Court. If at some meeting, a Judge makes some observations on political matters, perhaps the Press may not report those observations.

Having made these remarks, I will deal directly with the budget. The budget is a reflection of the principles, the policies and the programmes adumbrated, accepted and followed by the Government. The first point of view from which we have to look at it, is whether it contributes to the soundness of the financial structure of the State. I must congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister, who has never been congratulated on anything as far as I know, and the other Members of the Government on the fact that the budget maintains the financial position of the State which is very sound, perhaps sounder than the financial position of any other State in India and possibly the soundest in the whole world. It

9th March 1950]

[Dr. V. K. John]

is stated that our liabilities are only Rs. 27.49 crores, which is less than one-half of the present annual revenue and many crores less than the Reserve Fund of Rs. 33.81 crores. Any investor can very safely invest in the securities of the Government of Madras.

"I also congratulate the Government, looking at the budget from the point of view of law and order. Maintenance of law and order is the primary concern of any Government and this Government can be congratulated on maintaining law and order in the State perhaps better than in many other States. I particularly congratulate the Hon. Chief Minister, and the Hon. Law Minister whose very life is in danger as he has to combat Communism. This infant Sovereign Democratic Republic of ours is faced with disruptive forces inside the country itself and opposition from a sister country outside. Therefore it is all the more imperative for the Government to keep security and order. I am indeed glad that they have been kept up to our expectations in our State. We hope that in the coming year there will not be any railway or other disasters.

"But I am not happy over the fact that the expenditure on Jails and Police has gone up from 3½ crores in 1945-46 to 7½ crores at the present time. The increased expenditure shows that everything is not in order with the State and that there is something wrong. Our ultimate object is to abolish, if we can, the Police Department and the Jail Department. It may take a long time. We may keep that as an ideal and plan to bring into existence that non-violent society which the Father of the Nation had in mind. The savings effected by the abolition of these two departments can be utilized for some more deserving purposes. I hope the Government will plan towards that end.

"Now Sir, having complimented the Government on these 11-15 two points, I have to look at the Budget from many other points of view. I say Sir, that I have to condemn and condemn in strong language the Budget proposals. I look at the Budget first of all from the point of view of implementing the Constitution of the country, particularly of implementing the directive principles of State policy. I have to look at the Budget from the point of view of increased agricultural production and from the point of view of increased industrial output. I have to look at the Budget from the point of view of its financial structure. When I deal with this, I shall tell this House and the public through this House that it is wrong to call sales tax, which is looting, by the name of Kama-dhenu. We should rather call it a blood-sucking leech which sucks the blood of the poor.

"Then Sir, I have to look at the Budget from the point of view of the promotion of the welfare of the common man. I suppose, Sir, that a dictionary has been given to the Chief Whip of the Government in this House to find out the definition of the words 'common man', because he asked for it the other day. (An hon. Member: 'Has it been given?') I do not know, Sir. I am looking at the Chief Minister and he is always smiling; perhaps he has given one to his whip. Now Sir, I have to look at the Budget also

[Dr. V. K. John] [9th March 1950]

from the point of view of the wastage of public money particularly in state trading schemes, in nationalization and in failing to carry out retrenchment. I have to look at it from the point of view of controls, and many other points of view and then see whether the Hon. the Finance Minister can be complimented on his proposals.

"First of all, let us look at it from the point of view of our Constitution. Sir, I have made a fairly special study of the Constitution of our country. Whatever be its defects and whatever be the criticisms that may be made against it, I say, Sir, that it is an ideal Constitution, a Constitution which has the characteristics of stability and flexibility which any Constitution must have, a Constitution which provides for a democratic structure of society and form of Government, providing for the freedom of elections and for the division of functions of the Government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary. It is a Constitution which borrows the leading characteristics of the British Constitution namely, conflict of interests, compromise and caution. This is the Constitution we have to implement and it contains certain directive principles of state policy other than fundamental rights intended to create a welfare State—I want the Hon. Ministers to read Part IV of the Constitution, articles 36 to 51. I want them to read it once, twice and over and over again and get it by heart. If they cannot understand it, let them engage a tutor for that purpose. (Laughter.)

"Sir, for the Directive Principles of State Policy, the 'State' has been defined in Part III, Article 12 as including the Government of each of the States; that is to say, it includes the Government of Madras also. Article 37 in Part IV says—

'37. The provisions contained in this part shall not be enforceable by any court, but the principles therein laid down are nevertheless fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws.'

Now Sir, the first duty of the Finance Minister in framing his Budget after the commencement of the Constitution is to look at the Directive Principles of State Policy and find out whether the programme and the policy of the Government implement these Directive Principles of State Policy. That is the primary concern. It is the first function. But if you read his Budget speech you will find that it is just on a line with the Budget speeches of former years. It is very painful to us to see that he has never had in mind the Directive Principles of State Policy and never said anything anywhere as to how these directive principles would be implemented.

"Sir, these directive principles can be grouped together. Article 38 is the paramount article with its object of creating a welfare State. Articles 39 (a), 41, 43, 47 and 48 deal with the promotion of the welfare of the common man. Then there is Article 45 dealing with education, Article 46 dealing with the uplift of the scheduled castes, Article 50 dealing with the separation of the judiciary from the executive and Article 40 dealing with the organization of village panchayats.

9th March 1950] [Dr. V. K. John]

"I shall deal with education first. Article 45 says—

'45. The State shall endeavour to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years.'

I have grouped this along with Article 39 (a) which runs as follows :—

'39 (a) The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood.'

Sir, we have no idea of how many millions of people have not even one meal a day and sometimes, not even two meals a week. Then Article 41 says—

'41. The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.'

Is there anything in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister which makes a reference to this most important directive principle of State policy?

"Then Sir, Article 43 says—

'43. The State shall endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas.'

"Then Sir, Article 47 says—

'47. The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition . . .

The Hon. Dr. Rajan is here and I hope he will in his reply say something about nutrition.

"The article goes on—

'and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medical purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.'

"The words 'injurious to health' are there. Then Article 48 says—

'48. The State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle.'

"Sir, I have grouped these articles together to be discussed under the heading, 'Promotion of the welfare of the common man'. I will first of all deal with education referred to in Article 45. From my point of view and from the public point of view, education is of fundamental importance, if we have to maintain and develop this Constitution. In this Constitution we have taken the risk of giving adult suffrage. 75,000 voters are to elect one Member for the House of the People and 75,000 voters have to elect one Member for the Legislative Assembly of a State. Now, Sir, the provisions for adult suffrage and territorial constituencies have to be implemented. It can be done only if Article 45 of the Constitution is implemented. The Government

[Dr. V. K. John]

[9th March 1950]

must provide for compulsory education within a period of ten years for all boys and girls up to the age of 14 years. What have the Government provided in this Budget for this? In paragraph 21 of his Budget speech, the Finance Minister has stated that the Government are spending a few more crores of rupees. But what is the result? In 1945-46 the Government were spending Rs. 4½ crores on education. Then the strength in elementary schools for boys and girls was 32·42 lakhs. The Government spent Rs. 9 crores in 1948-49, but the strength in elementary schools for boys and girls rose to only 38·17 lakhs. While the expenditure has doubled the strength of the schools has not at all doubled; it has not increased even by a quarter. Sir, I wish to point out to the Government and emphasize it that they should keep one thing in their view namely, that it is not expenditure alone that matters, it is the result that matters. They may spend crores of rupees, but they may be all wasted as it has been done in the Grow More Food campaign. What the Finance Minister has to tell us is not how much he has spent but what he has achieved. I am expecting the Hon. the Finance Minister to tell this House and through this House the public at large what the Government have achieved. It is not enough for the Government or the Finance Minister in his Budget speech to say that they have spent Rs. 9 crores now as against Rs. 4½ crores sometime back and that they have doubled the expenditure. Thereby they want us to think that some great improvement has been made. But what is the result of this expenditure? They have spent crores of rupees on food production and I will presently show that the whole thing has been a waste. With regard to State trading schemes, the report of the auditor shows how many crores have been lost in pilferage and loss in transit. I want to tell my hon. friends on the other side that though they have spent crores of rupees the results achieved have not been commensurate with the expenditure. They must hereafter tell us not how much has been spent, but what has been achieved. Sir, is it not waste of public money when you have increased the expenditure on education from Rs. 4½ crores to Rs. 9 crores while you have not doubled the strength of the classes but increased it only by a very small percentage? Has he explained it in his speech? Why, I ask? He has not had in view Article 45 of the Constitution of our country which is a sacred book for him to study; and why has he not had it in view? He has not told us what the programme is of this Government during these ten years and when there will be free and compulsory education in this State. Does he tell us what is the figure of school-going children? He has not. The other day I privately asked the Hon. Minister for Education to tell me what the number of school-going boys and girls is, and he said 70 lakhs. How could it be 70 lakhs? We are 50 millions of people, and one-fourth of the population at least must be school-going children. It must be at least double 70 lakhs. How many children are you educating, who are not above 14 years, by spending so many crores? Have the Government given the relevant figures in the Budget? Why are they manipulating these figures and why do they not tell us what the actual figures are? I say they are manipulating these figures. From the Finance

11-30
a.m.

9th March 1950]

[Dr. V. K. John]

Minister's Budget speech for the year 1947-48 you find the figure for secondary schools is 975 but in the previous budget you find quite a different figure, an entirely different figure. It is 763 for the year 1947-48. How is it so entirely different, I ask? It is because the Government have not got the correct figures themselves. Some figure is given in one Budget speech and another figure for the same period—a totally different figure—is given in another Budget speech. Therefore I say these figures are not correct. And how can the Finance Minister be complimented. How could he give two different figures in two Budget speeches for 1949-50 and 1950-51 for secondary schools for the same period. If the Government have had in view the fundamental principle embodied in Article 45, they should have told us: 'These principles we accept, these are our estimated numbers of school-going children up to the age of 14 years'—it may be 150 or 200 lakhs, it may grow year after year as our population increases. Therefore, I say, first of all, they should tell us 'these are the numbers now, this is what we have done and this is what we propose to do for implementing Article 45 of the Constitution containing the directive principle on education'. If this is not done, can you keep up the democratic structure of our Constitution? We have provided for an executive responsible to the Legislature, and the Legislature to be elected on a territorial basis by adult suffrage. This is the one fundamental thing which the Finance Minister does not care to know; he does not give all figures and where he gives figures he gives wrong figures. He does not give us any guidance, and yet he asks us to compliment him on what he has produced. How could I or any Member of any party, or even of his own party, compliment him on what he has produced, so far as education is concerned?

" Sir, the Hon. Finance Minister wanted constructive suggestions. I venture to make a suggestion as to how he could implement this Article 45 of our Constitution. My suggestion is that free and compulsory primary education and, if necessary secondary education, must be the responsibility of local bodies,—of the Corporation, the municipal councils and the panchayats. It is the primary duty of the panchayats to spread education, and these panchayats must be constituted at once. I find the Hon. Finance Minister has not provided even a rupee for the constitution of these panchayats which were declared in this House and in the other House at the time of the discussion of the Panchayats Bill, as units of self-government. The Government do not expect to constitute even one panchayat during the whole of the coming year and that is why they have not provided anything for it. And yet the Finance Minister wants me to congratulate him. As I said, Sir, the responsibility for education should be that of the local bodies, of course assisted by the Government.

" My second suggestion is that the Government must encourage private agencies which are already imparting education. We had a Minister, before the hon. Mr. Madhava Menon took up office, who created a commotion in the minds of the people

[Dr. V. K. John]

[9th March 1950]

who contributed nearly one-third of the education given in this State, primary and University. I understand, after the hon. Mr. Madhava Menon took charge, the commotion has died down and those people are not now frightened. When the other gentleman was in charge of the Education department the department worked on the narrow loyalties of communalism, linguism and parochialism. He was only concerned with seeing that the Madras City was a Tamil area and therefore Tamil should be taught there. With all these narrow loyalties of linguism and parochialism, he never cared to assist the private agencies in the imparting of primary education, but frightened them and created a commotion. Basic education was his fad. In fact, if you look at the previous Budgets, you will find it stated that 'the scheme for the extension of compulsory elementary education is also making progress'—that is what Mr. Gopala Reddi said in his 1948-49 speech. In the next year, i.e., in his Budget speech of last year, he said without any compunction 'The Government have decided that further extension of compulsory elementary education to new areas should be held in abeyance until most of the existing schools have been converted into basic schools'. Do you congratulate the Government on this statement, when they knew at the time of the last Budget the directive principle of our State policy contained in Article 45? Do you congratulate the Finance Minister who had the boldness to come to the Houses of Legislature and to the country and say 'I am keeping in abeyance elementary education, because I have a pet scheme of basic education'? And the Government converted 18 schools into basic training centres and started 17 new ones. This is the way in which things are going on; the Government have no policy, no programme and no principle. They go on the basis of trial and error and naturally that is very costly. What is the fun of this Government saying last year that they were holding elementary education in abeyance and saying nothing at all about it this year? I say, Sir, this Government are not carrying out the directive principles of State policy. My suggestion therefore is: let the Government entrust the responsibility to the panchayats, and to the local bodies; let them constitute the panchayats immediately. Make education their primary concern, and also encourage existing private agencies. University education may of course be the responsibility of the Government. I should not be misunderstood as using strong language, but can the Hon. Finance Minister tell us how many boys and girls have been knocking at the doors of the colleges for admission and how many applications have been rejected? Is he still following up the old policy of Brahman and non-Brahman and making distinction between students and students? Again, how many boys and girls are seeking admission into the secondary schools and into the primary schools? We have no information at all. Nevertheless, the Hon. Finance Minister had the courage to ask his supporters and the Opposition to congratulate him on this wonderful document he has produced. How can anybody congratulate him, I ask? On the other hand,

9th March 1950]

[Dr. V. K. John]

this Government have been making a mess of education, they are groping in the dark without a policy or a programme; in one year they say elementary education is making progress and in another year they say it is kept in abeyance and this year they give us no figures at all, having no regard to the Constitution of the country. I say this must be condemned. As I said, the responsibility for compulsory primary education should be given to the Corporation, the municipal councils, the local bodies and the panchayats; take University education as your responsibility; also encourage private agencies in this respect. Give a new orientation to religious and charitable institutions. To-day if there is cent per cent education in Cochin and Travancore—and I speak from intimate knowledge—it is because every church in that State takes the responsibility of having a school attached to it. The school was called 'pallikoodam'—because 'palli' is church and 'koodam' is the school building attached to it. If only all our religious institutions and all our charitable endowments take upon themselves the responsibility of supplementing the education given by the Government and by others, then we will have achieved a great thing. When we have adult suffrage, the one thing which will establish the sovereignty of the people is education. For that purpose, we must have propaganda committees. Temples, churches and mosques should all be requested to give their energy, time and their funds to the spread of education; and the Government should also give pecuniary assistance to these bodies, if required. Let them allot the sales tax to education. I shall say and I am going to say again that the sales tax levy is wrong; it is a very immoral tax; at least give this immoral tax to education. This immoral tax has grown to Rs. 15 or Rs. 16 crores now.

"Then, I have got a suggestion to make for implementing Article 45 of our Constitution. The Government should relax the stringent rules regarding qualifications of teachers and text-books. Those stringent rules were framed at a time when the Britisher did not want us to be educated. In our old village schools, boys sat at the feet of the teacher who did not have a University degree or even a pass in the School Final Examination, got educated and learnt to read our ancient scriptures. We must relax those stringent rules.

"Yesterday there was an interruption when one of my Colleagues insisted on a higher pay for elementary school teachers. Teaching is a noble profession and the teachers train the future citizens of our country. With thirty or forty rupees a month, how can we expect the teachers to live and maintain their families consisting of about half a dozen members in a decent condition? They live in poverty all through their life. We must pay the teachers as high a salary as possible and keep them above want, so that they may teach at least one great quality to the children whom they take care of, the quality of smiling through life which social quality our boys and girls must learn first. How can a teacher who has no food to eat, no cloth to wear, no money to educate his children and with no provision for the maintenance

11-45
a.m.

[Dr. V. K. John]

[9th March 1950]

of his wife in case he is dead, be expected to infuse healthy qualities in the children who are the citizens of to-morrow? Is there anything in this budget which holds out the hope of a minimum living wage to the school teacher? Still the Hon. Finance Minister asks the Members to congratulate him on his budget in which education has been neglected in the manner in which it has been done. I make this suggestion in all humility. I hope the Hon. Finance Minister will learn a bit of humility as he grows older. Let him see whether he cannot produce a supplementary budget this year or the annual budget next year which will give satisfaction to the people and implement the directive principle enunciated in Article 45 of our Constitution.

"Now I pass on to agricultural production and industrial output. Crores of rupees including block grants given by the Government of India have been spent on the Grow More Food Campaign. I admit that something has been done in regard to irrigation and electricity. Barring that, this Grow More Food Campaign consuming crores of rupees has been a thorough failure of which any Government ought to be ashamed; it has benefited only those persons who are engaged in that campaign. Having said that, I will quote figures which have been furnished by the Government themselves. Our normal production is 48.7 lakhs of tons of rice and 26.5 lakhs of tons of millets. According to the figures supplied in February 1950 our production for the kharif year 1949-50 is 37.8 lakhs of tons of rice and 23.6 lakhs of tons of millets. Thus there is a fall from normal production by 9.9 lakhs of tons of rice and 2.9 lakhs of tons of millets. In the kharif year 1948-49, there was a decline from the normal production of 6.59 lakhs of tons of rice and 5.02 lakhs of tons of millets. Our production is progressively declining. Last year the deficit was six and odd lakhs in rice and this year it is nine and odd lakhs. I am sure it will be more next year unless the Government wake up and do something to increase food production. It is said that monsoon is responsible for the reduced production and the blame is put on God. The predecessor of the present Chief Minister has said that there is no timely rain as a reprisal to the sins committed by the people and has exhorted the people to pray to God. I hope that is not the attitude of the present Ministry. How can they pray to God when they do not help themselves? God helps only those who help themselves. The test of the success of any administration is not the crores of rupees spent but the result that is achieved. If only my hon. Friends on the other side of the House had talked less and done more, the result would not have been this decline in production from year to year even after spending crores of rupees. The Government do not have a policy. I took the trouble of getting copies of speeches of the Hon. Revenue Minister delivered last year and year before last. I invite him to borrow those books and read them as, I think, he never read them again. In one year he says that the Government have a five-year programme and in another year he says that they have a three-year programme. Now he says that they have a two-year programme

9th March 1950]

[Dr. V. K. John]

which has been made into a three-year programme at the instance of the Central Government. For what purpose is this programme? Yesterday the hon. Member Sri K. M. Desigar said that ninety thousand acres in Tanjore district served by two anicuts could easily be brought under cultivation. Has that been done? Let me make a few suggestions again in all humility. I have grown older and learnt humility. The Hon. Finance Minister is many years younger and he will learn humility as he grows older. (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi: 'Why should I grow old to learn humility?') Let him not learn humility. But let him try to understand. The other day when Sri K. Natarajan was speaking, I brought to his notice that the Minister about whose department he was speaking was not in the House. He at once gave the reply that his presence would not improve matters. I am glad the Hon. Minister is present now to listen to me. First of all, let the Government try to contact the farmer, because on his initiative and skill depends our food production. Have we ever contacted the farmer? (Interruption.) The Hon. Sri Sitarama Reddi says that he is contacting the farmer Sri K. M. Desigar who owns a large estate but does not cultivate a bit of land himself. But neither the Food Minister nor the Agriculture Minister is contacting him. I am not making this suggestion in joke. In all seriousness I say every step should be taken to contact the farmer.

"Let the Minister read the British Agriculture Act of 1947 over and over again. That Act has revolutionized agriculture in England. Under it, there are centralized planning, decentralized execution, guaranteed prices and assured markets for agricultural products. For each country there is an Agricultural Executive Committee. It is a statutory committee consisting of the representatives of farmers, workers and landowners. These committees have got the power to take over badly cultivated lands and see that they are well cultivated, and they help the farmers in getting their requirements like manure, implements, seeds, etc. In England there is mechanised cultivation. About 300,000 tractors are in use. Besides there are 1,400 agricultural experts to give free advice to the farmers. We have not got experts. We can send some people to England for study and the money spent on them will be amply justified by the increased production as a result of adopting their advice. It is with great distress I see that our Agriculture Department will not listen to experts but try to keep out of their way any expert who could give them advice on intensive cultivation. I know of at least two experts. Mr. G. D. Naidu said that he could increase the production of cotton manyfold. He produced a variety of cotton plant by a certain method and the Agriculture Department said that there could not be mass production. He planted five acres with the seeds so produced and showed them to the Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon. I know another gentleman—I will not mention his name—who, by the application of electricity to plants, could produce thirty-five per cent more yield. The Agriculture Department would not borrow the intellect and

[Dr. V. K. John] [9th March 1950]

experience of men who have tried these methods for years; they shun them and hunt them out. The Hon. Minister for Agriculture is listening to me. Will he chastise the officers and ask why they are doing like this? He will not put them this question. That is how administration is being carried on. My advice is to contact the farmer, follow the British system of agriculture and bring all the uncultivated lands under cultivation. In the very interesting and instructive book 'Wealth and Welfare in the Province of Madras' prepared by Dr. B. Natarajan, Economic Adviser to the Government of Madras—in my opinion a very eminent economist—it is said that the net area sown is 31,035,475 acres and the cultivable waste together with fallows is 21,347,625 acres. I know that some cultivable wastes are bits of land and some are large tracts. I ask why the Government have not brought these lands under cultivation. They need not take the lands under their direct cultivation as there is likely to be wastage, unnecessary delay and red-tape. Let the Government reclaim the lands, provide them with water, and sell them by auction or private negotiation to farmers who would cultivate them, on an annuity basis. By this method, they can settle millions of agricultural labourers on the farms and this will prevent Communism. The Ministers have patriotism, they have sincerity but they have no plan. We have 33 crores of rupees in the Revenue Reserve Fund. Why should not that amount be utilized in bringing cultivable waste lands under cultivation and increasing production? Why should the Finance Minister sit on it like a miser? I can only compare him to the Nizam of Hyderabad. Is this what is expected of a Finance Minister of a State which is deficit in foodstuffs? In Travancore when Sri C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar was Dewan, even backwaters were cultivated by some method. (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi: 'Was he congratulated?') The people who were benefited congratulated him. Here nobody is benefited and therefore there is nobody to congratulate the Finance Minister. Sri M. Narayana Menon said clearly that not one section of the people was satisfied with the administration. He knew the feeling in the country. Is it a compliment, especially coming as it does from the ex-Whip of the Congress Party? In reply to my question, the Minister said that the Government are allowing some block grants given by the Government of India to lapse. Spending crores of rupees might be productive or might be a waste. Let him not produce a budget which says that the Government are spending crores of rupees. Let him tell us what the actual results achieved are. Then he would have a grasp of the elementary principles of finance. The real facts are suppressed in this budget. Why have not the Government introduced scientific methods of agriculture which is the duty of the State under the Directive Principles of our Constitution? There is no use in saying that they could not produce more as there was no rain and in exhorting people to pray to God for rain. They should always expect the worst and hope for the best and plan accordingly. In spite of my desire to congratulate the Hon. the Finance Minister, I cannot congratulate him on the food position.

[9th March 1950] [Dr. V. K. John]

"Let me come to industrial output. There is but one paragraph in the Budget speech dealing with the industrial policy of the Government. The Government should make a list of articles required for consumption in our State and plan for their production either by themselves organizing or by assisting private enterprise to organize big, medium and cottage industries. In paragraph 25, the Finance Minister says that the Government have provided for an interest-free advance of Rs. 25 for every handloom weaver newly admitted into the weaver's co-operative societies, recoverable in twelve instalments and advances to the societies at the rate of Rs. 75 per loom for purchase of yarn and payment of wages to the members. This is a case of the mountain in labour producing a mouse. Can anybody imagine a Government of fifty million people, perhaps the leading State in India, assisting the handloom industry by giving to the handloom weaver Rs. 25 and that too to be recovered. This is what they have to say about industrial output other than the Khadi scheme.

"There is the intensive Khadi scheme. The Minister has admitted that a substantial portion of the khadi produced is unsold. Why? Because the cloth is coarse. Machinery in cloth production has come to stay and handmade cloth cannot compete with mill cloth. Out of patriotism one may like khadi. I am not against khadi. People who have nothing else to do can spin. In the 1948 budget, it was said that to encourage khadi the Government prohibited the supply of mill cloth and handspun cotton yarn to certain intensive khadi areas. Khadi price is three times that of mill cloth; khadi is unwashable and ugly-looking. You, Mr. Deputy Chairman, the Chief Minister, the Law Minister, and the Finance Minister are nice-looking with the khadi dress. I am not criticizing men; I am only criticizing measures. There is not much scope for khadi industry.

"In the 1948 budget speech, the same Finance Minister referred to the availability of iron ore in Salem, Tiruchirappalli and Kurnool districts and lignite deposits in South Arcot district. On reading the industrial policy outlined in that speech, people thought that the Province would become highly industrialized like the United Kingdom or the United States of America and that all people would be happy. The speech even said that a sample of ore was sent to Krupp in Germany. The record of this Government is a record of unfulfilled promises. What is the use of giving a fine programme on paper without executing it? The progress of the policies enunciated in one year's budget is not indicated in the next year's budget. I called the 1948-49 budget an 'under-consideration' budget."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:—"I would remind the hon. 12-15 p.m. Member that it is now 12-15."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—"If the Chairman wants me to stop I shall stop."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:—"I do not want the hon. Member to stop, but I should say he is going on leisurely."

[9th March 1950]

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I am proceeding in the best way possible, Sir. As many as 24 items were all under-consideration in the 1948-49 budget. But, in the following years' budget these under-consideration items disappeared. That year I characterised the budget as an under-consideration budget and added that under-consideration means under 'red-tape' and that means shelved. Why should not the Hon. Finance Minister refer to the previous budget while preparing the subsequent year's budget. In fact, last year he said that a big scheme for live-stock was under consideration, but in the next year there is nothing said about that at all. I want to know who is printing his Budget speech? Cannot he get a copy of the previous budget and make a reference to it at least for the sake of courtesy to this House and see whether the schemes which were said to be under consideration are still under consideration, or whether something has been done in regard to them or not. I am not exaggerating at all. There are in fact over a dozen things which he said last year were under consideration. I do not want to take the House through every one of those dozen things. He said that the Town-Planning Scheme was deeply under consideration, but nothing about it in this year's budget. So, Sir there are so many things promised. In one budget, it is said a big matter is under consideration, reports have been called for, schemes adumbrated, but in the next budget he forgets all about them evidently, because members may have laid his previous Budget speech by. In fact, I had to borrow a copy of it from the Secretary. The Hon. Finance Minister has not referred to his previous year's Budget speech and the man who prepared the Budget speech of this year should have referred to it when he prepared the following year's Budget speech, at least for the sake of courtesy to this House. He thinks perhaps that he is responsible only for this year's budget. He asks us very seriously at the end of his Budget speech, please congratulate me . . ."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Please read the sentence fully."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I think he has forgotten even this. This is what he says : 'I, therefore, hope that all Members of this House will help the Government by constructive criticism only, appreciating the limitations within which Government have to function . . .'"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Please complete the sentence."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Did not the Hon. Finance Minister say in the other House 'I was disappointed that I was not congratulated on this expert budget' which he produced? Did he not say it elsewhere? Is that not enough?"

"Now, Sir, I pass on from this to industrial development. My suggestion is, let the Government sit down and plan a plan, which gives priority, which provides for targets, which provides for

9th March 1950]

[Dr. V. K. John]

co-ordination, co-ordination between the big industries, medium industries and the cottage industries, so that there is no conflict between them. I ask the Government to encourage private enterprise, but not to take upon themselves the burden of running the industries, and let our people who are not enterprising in industry on account of foreign rule for 150 years be encouraged; let them become enterprising and let them have a mind to take risks. Although I am criticising the Government I am always having a feeling in my mind—and I am sure the members of my party also have the same feeling and so also everybody else—that after all unless the people also co-operate with the Government, the Government cannot succeed in its administration, because they cannot cultivate the land and they cannot have industrial output increased. Therefore, we must all co-operate with the Government and certainly we will have to co-operate with a Government constituted, as I said, of patriotic men, anxious to improve the condition of the State. Therefore, Sir, I am making an appeal to the industrialists who have got money, the initiative, and the enterprising spirit, to see that they produce very much more, tens of thousands of tons, more than we are producing to-day and let this Government assist private enterprise.

"Now, Sir, I must look at this budget from the point of view of the common man, from the point of view of the welfare of the common man. What does the common man want? First of all he wants honest remunerative employment, low prices of food-stuffs, shelter, sanitary conditions of life including protected water-supply, medical assistance and as I said, education and recreation. Now, Sir, I wish to concentrate only on one of these, namely, employment. I am glad that at least one Minister has realised that there is much unemployment in this State and is trying to see that some work is given to these poor people so that they may not die. But, Sir, you have no idea of the extent of unemployment in our State. Unemployment is acute and our Constitution states that you must not only provide employment but provide also insurance for the unemployed, for old age, for sickness and provision for widows and orphans. Now, let us see what we have done. What is there in the budget to tell us how many are unemployed? In fact, all civilised countries publish every week or periodically the number of the unemployed. Sir, a number of my friends and volunteers took the trouble of taking out figures by surveying one cheri in Triplicane. We found out the conditions in which people are living in this cheri. Sir, we investigated 95 huts in which there are 187 adult males, 161 adult females, 63 boys and 69 girls, total 480. Then, out of the 187 adult males, 89 are unemployed and out of the 161 adult females 118 are unemployed. Women who are employed are engaged in assisting their husbands in their work. But, they have no schools, no protected water-supply for 24 hours of the day, no roads and no convenience for bathing or for calls of nature. They live in squalour, in dirt, in unemployment, in poverty and in ignorance. This is the condition in which our fellow citizens live and the majority of them live in such conditions in other

[Dr. V. K. John]

[9th March 1950]

parts of the city and elsewhere. But, what have this Government done for giving employment? Nothing at all. There is no scheme for the promotion of the welfare of the common man, though they say, we are spending so many lakhs for hospitals, etc. If only my Hon. Friend, Dr. Rajan, goes about these hospitals and makes a survey, he would find that more patients are on the floor than on the beds. Sir, it is not the hospitals we should multiply, it is not the doctors we have to multiply, but we must create such conditions for giving proper nutrition, employment and food for people and we must deal with poverty, squalour and dirt. We must give them sanitary conditions of life. Now, Sir, what does the Hon. Finance Minister say? He asks us, 'Cannot you see I am spending more money on hospitals and on every other thing and can you not therefore assume that more people will go to hospitals?' But, he does not understand that he is not creating conditions by which hospitals can vanish. We no more want hospitals and medicine, but we ought to attend to preventive measures. What about nutrition? And, has he ever gone into the huts to see the insanitary condition in which these poor people live? Has he ever seen huts 10 feet by 10 feet accommodating 6 to 8 people, men, women and children living in that squalour? Therefore, I say, this Government is not a Government for the promotion of the welfare of the common man. But, he comes along from year to year telling us, see how much we have spent. Now, let us see how much they have wasted. At least the Hon. Finance Minister knows how much money is wasted.

" Sir, I want to bring this to the attention of the Hon. Finance Minister. Even these State Trading Schemes are not audited. I refer to the 1948 Audit Report on the accounts of 1946-47. It was not, of course, during the regime of the Hon. Mr. Kumaraswami Raja. I see crores of rupees have been wasted. The Auditor-General, being a shrewd man, has also given the reasons. I invite particular attention to what he has said. He said that in transit, in go-downs and pilferage crores have been wasted. Of course, I can read item after item, because he has dealt with wheat, rice and other things separately. I want to ask, is this not continuing even to-day? He has stated that in regard to firewood—also in wheat, rice and every other thing he had dealt with—the loss is they run to crores of rupees. Has the hon. Mr. Prakasam who wants to revive his charges against the Ministers ever seen that during his administration 6 crores and odd were wasted, a sheer waste, under State Trading Schemes? I see his supporters here and I hope they will convey my compliments to him. There is, I find, a loss on firewood of Rs. 2,49,759 due to dryage and pilferage. Then the accounts have not been audited after 1947. So, the Government do not know how much they are wasting in State Trading Schemes. I ask, is it a foreign Government to-day? Why not these Trading schemes be handed over to our own people who know the business instead of taking them over directly by the Government and lose lakhs and crores of rupees. For instance, if you had handed over the firewood business to a big contractor or to a number of individuals, would you

9th March 1950]

[Dr. V. K. John]

have to write off this sum of Rs. 2,49,759 in one year? As I said, crores have also been wasted under wheat, rice, manure and other things.

" Sir, I do not want to take the time of the House, but I would like to ask the Hon. Finance Minister, whether he has the slightest idea of the huge waste under State Trading Schemes. But he wants to tell us, 'whatever may be the loss on Trading Schemes, I have made money in nationalization of transport'. Look at the accounts of the nationalization scheme. If any competent man were to examine it, he would at once find how many lakhs of rupees have been wasted. He has told us that the accounts for 1947-48 have not been audited at all up to this time. He has not told us about this year's accounts. But, some paper has published that for the year ending 31st March 1948, there was a profit of Rs. 3,90,000. But, what is the depreciation? I find there is a depreciation reserve fund of Rs. 2,78,000. I think, every one of these buses to-day should have done a lakh of miles and they cannot be sold for scrap value at any rate for not more than a thousand rupees, because the condition of the buses is such. If any persons gets into these buses he will know the actual condition. I do not get into these buses as I have not got the time and even if I want to do so the Hon. Finance Minister does not invite me. I say, Sir, if you sell these buses away to people who may buy, the market price is such that you will find in this transaction a loss running to the tune of 30 lakhs of rupees. You have put a depreciation of 25 per cent on buses that have lived their lives and yet you come forward and say, we have made 4 lakhs of money in so many years. I say, Sir, it is high time for this Government not to have these trading schemes and nationalization. I saw in the papers this morning that a large number of people convened a 12-30 meeting the other day at which they passed a resolution that these p.m. trading schemes will lead to monopoly, inefficiency of administration, delay, high operating cost and inequitable distribution. Here we are making some allowance for depreciation, which is not even a quarter of what it ought to be, and yet, Government have made no profit from it! Is this the way for Government to run the business? They are simply wasting crores of rupees.

" Now, Sir, I am closing. Before doing so, I want to say one word about retrenchment. I have read the Hon. Finance Minister's budget speech from cover to cover. I do not see any mention about retrenchment in it. During the previous two years, he said that it was under the consideration of Government. But this year, there is not a sentence about retrenchment in his budget speech. He gave an explanation for it in the other House, and that is, while he was willing his officers were not willing. In the last year's budget we were promised a cut of 12½ per cent; but this year he does not say a word about it; and his promises are all unfulfilled; I fear he does not know what he promised. Or if he knows, he does not tell us how or why he has not been able to carry out his promises.

" Then, I come to another most important point, and that is about the financial structure of this Province. Nearly 16 crores

[Dr. V. K. John] [9th March 1950]

are collected by way of sales-tax, the 'Kamadhenu', which I call a blood sucking leech, which sucks the blood of the poor man. Government are taxing the poor man everywhere. You turn to the right, you see there is taxation; you turn to your left, you see there is taxation, then you turn round about, there also you see there is taxation. If you want to eat at your table, there is taxation there also. (Laughter.) Thus you see taxation all round, and yet the Hon. Finance Minister complains very bitterly that the Centre is trying to save the poor man from taxation on commodities necessary for his life. Sir, Government called the tax on drink an immoral tax. I call this taxation of the poor man on every article of his food an immoral tax. It is not a sales-tax at all; it is a consumer's tax. To collect this tax, Government have adopted a machinery, in which every man is a tax payer and every other man is a tax payer and a tax collector. The throat of the poor man is choked with taxation. Take the tax on motor vehicles. The Finance Minister admits it is the largest in India and possibly the largest in the world. The major portion is on commercial vehicles and the poor man's means of transport. Everywhere there is control. This Government does not know that the object of every control is decontrol. When they impose control on any matter they must also put down on paper a scheme for decontrol. Sir, let me remind Hon. Ministers of what has happened in England. The leader of the Labour Party woke up after election to see that his strength had been reduced because of this control. Here, in our State, one cannot turn to his right or left without the dark, ugly figure of control staring at him. The shadow of control pursues him wherever he goes. One may as well call this a night-mare. Is there not a way out of this control? The Hon. Finance Minister has not said a single word about the removal of control in his budget speech. But they bring legislation for extension of control from year to year. Then, Sir, two years ago, in the budget speech, the Hon. Finance Minister stated that it was most inequitable that land revenue should be collected from the poor landowners. They said that it was not proper to collect revenue from people holding one acre at the same rate at which even from zamindars it is collected. Let there be equitable taxation on land. So there was a talk of levy of agricultural income-tax, and then it was given up for some unknown reason. Sir, the Hon. Finance Minister does not know what the people say about the levy of the sales-tax. Being a lawyer, people come to me for advice, and from what they say, I see, there is a general feeling in this State that the tax collected is not equitable, and there is oppressive method employed in collecting it. There is no court of appeal, like the one provided in the case of income-tax."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"They can go to judicial courts."

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"In the case of income-tax, there is provision for appeal to independent tribunals. Why not have an impartial judicial tribunal for sales-tax? Sir, this is an unjust and inequitable way of collecting tax to the tune of not one crore but

9th March 1950] [Dr. V. K. John]

15-59 crores! I am sure it will increase. It is the largest revenue in the State, double or even more than double that of income-tax; and still Government do not wish to set up an appellate tribunal for sales-tax, a tax, which the Hon. Finance Minister calls a 'Kamadhenu', but which I in all humility call a 'blood sucking leech' because it sucks the blood of the poor man."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Leech sucks only bad blood!"

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"I trust my friend; let him put a leech on his neighbour and see what it does! It will suck blood till the man dies."

"Then, Sir, I shall deal with the local bodies for a minute. The Corporation of Madras has taken a loan from the Government of Rs. 3,34,96,110, and they are paying by way of interest every year a sum of Rs. 11,41,400. I doubt much whether any day they would be able to pay back the entire loan. After all, the Corporation is providing amenities for the sum borrowed, and I am of opinion that the entire loan should be written off. There is the Commissioner, the Chief Accounts Officer and others, who are all patriotic gentlemen, who are anxious to help the Corporation and who asked this Government to introduce a legislation to enable them to pay off debentures out of the sinking fund, so that they could utilize the sum now paid as interest in providing amenities interest at the rate of 5 to 7½ per cent but I am sorry to find that red-tape stands in the way. Sir, this is not the way of doing things."

"Now, Sir, were it not for the fact that the Hon. Finance Minister got a directive from the Government of India that he should have a budget this year without a deficit and without fresh taxation, I am afraid there would have been fresh taxation this year."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"There was only a directive that there should be a balanced budget, but no directive that there should not be any fresh taxation."

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"Yes, most of the taxes, the people are paying, unjust and inequitable. I am glad, the Hon. Finance Minister felt for the people and so did not bring in any fresh taxation. And look how he has allotted money? It is all clean cut. It is more correct to say it is clean shaven. (Laughter.) This budget has closely cut away, shaven clean some heads, and if I were the Finance Minister, I would have read this budget speech here with a head, clean shaven and not with a cropped head, nice looking as he has to-day. (Laughter.)"

"There are cuts everywhere but all are clothed in some 12-45 camouflaged language, with some figures, with some explanations here and some explanations there and because he is a past master in the art of speech making, he has covered up everything in this beautiful speech and in this beautifully got up pamphlet. And for this Sir, we are asked to congratulate him. In all conscience, Sir, we cannot."

[Dr. V. K. John]

[9th March 1950]

"Now, Sir, let me make one suggestion in this connexion. The Hon. Finance Minister asks, 'Where is the money to be found?' Let him first of all scrap prohibition, and if he cannot do it, let him at least change the method of its enforcement. Of course, everybody is interested that people should not get drunk, but there is no harm in people drinking within limits. For generations people have been drinking toddy and no harm had been done. Professor Haldane says that toddy has got food-value and that it contains vitamin B. In America, in Great Britain, in the Soviet Republic and in fact, all the world over, people are drinking and drinking is not prohibited in any of these countries. But the point is that people should not get drunk to the point of intoxication. What I would therefore suggest is why not follow the example of Britain to-day? There is also prohibition enforced in that country in a particular way. What they do is, they dilute the drink in such a manner that even if people drink two stomach-fulls, they would not get drunk. I ask the Hon. Finance Minister, why not follow the same practice here also and thereby get a revenue of Rs. 50 crores including 16 crores, which they have lost by giving up the excise revenue. What do people now say about the success of prohibition and the manner in which prohibition is being enforced? Even Congressmen, men in position, men holding responsible offices and Collectors—in fact, almost all of them have said that this prohibition has only provided a cottage industry for illicit distillation.

"Sir, we have read in the papers what Mr. Gurubatham, the previous Minister for Prohibition, has said about how prohibition is enforced. I am sorry he is not here in his place, but sometime back he asked a supplementary question whether illicit distillation has not become a successful cottage industry. The Minister was perhaps taken aback and he could not give a ready answer. Now, Sir, I say that even women and children have begun to drink. Why not the Government appoint a committee to find out the effect of prohibition. Sir, Sweden tried the experiment of prohibition. America also tried prohibition. But they had failed, because their policy did not produce the desired effect on the people. Now our Government have recently appointed some 400 people more to enforce prohibition; why?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—"To counteract the bad propaganda carried on by some people against prohibition."

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"Sir, I was one of those who contributed my share of support to prohibition. But I must, however, point out that people in the country do not evince any interest in the successful working of this prohibition policy as they did at the beginning. Otherwise, why is it that we find so much of illicit distillation going on in the villages, without their being brought to the notice of the authorities and officers in charge of prohibition? The simple and the plain fact is that people want to drink and when they do not get any drink by open means, they resort to some illicit stuff and take it, however bad it might be to their health. We have been told that even women and children have begun to drink this illicit stuff."

[9th March 1950]

MRS. M. HENSMAN:—"Sir, I should like to know from the hon. Leader of the Opposition, in what district women and children drink anything other than milk?"

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"I am glad, Sir, that the hon. Lady Member asks me to tell her the districts in which women and children are drinking. Probably, I think, she has got statistics of children who drink mother's milk."

MRS. M. HENSMAN:—"Sir, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition says that women and children in villages have now taken up to drink the illicit stuff. I want to know whether he has got any figures or statistics in his possession to prove his statement."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—"Sir, the other day Mr. Koti Reddi who was an ex-Minister for Prohibition made a statement to this effect."

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—"He is no authority on it."

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"Your successor will say you are no authority. It seems, Sir, that I should not take the word of a member of the Congress Party, who was also a Minister for Prohibition in the previous Cabinet, but that I should take the word of the present Minister. Even Collectors have reported that it is a fact, Sir. The Government's method of enforcing prohibition is like putting the cart before the horse. You must educate the public first and only when they have developed a certain standard of character and sense of morality that you can think of introducing total prohibition. The other day a senior official of the Government made a speech in a particular place. He said that people did not save anything even after prohibition. I want to know whether Government have launched any savings movement among the ex-addicts in order to tap their surplus money. No ex-addict seems to have saved anything. On the other hand he has frittered away his savings in other things. It is all mere talk that prohibition has benefited anybody in any way. Nobody has investigated into this matter and nobody has made an estimate of the savings effected or the investments made by the ex-addicts thereby. Why not the Government, as I said, set up a committee to inquire into this matter. Probably they are afraid that their report would be against them as the committee might say that the experiment has been a failure. But, I submit, Sir, that there is nothing wrong in Government's adopting a policy of trial and error. If they had really committed a mistake in having introduced prohibition at a time when people were not prepared for it, then it will be honest for them to admit their mistake. It will be prudent for them if they correct the mistake, but, on the other hand, it will be stupid for them if they persist in their mistakes. Why should they lose this revenue? You may say that excise revenue has been replaced by the revenue from sales-tax. Why cannot you utilize that revenue towards any other nation-building activities. Why cannot you prefer education to illicit distillation? Why cannot you

[Dr. V. K. John]

[9th March 1950]

prefer housing to illicit distillation? Why cannot you utilize the money for increasing food-production or on industrial or irrigation projects and why waste so much money in enforcing prohibition which is after all not successful and only encourages people to resort to illicit distillation? That money could be utilized in a hundred other ways, but you would not do it, because you want to persist in your mistaken policy. Then I say you are foolish.

"Now, Sir, my Hon. Friend, Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, said that drink is bad from the point of view of health. Perhaps it may be true. But, why do you allow soldiers in the army to drink? Is it not injurious for them also? Is it not poison for them? I say, Sir, that the Government are inconsistent. I want to know why in Delhi the same Congress Government at the Centre have allowed people to drink. Does not Pandit Nehru know that this is bad? Why has he allowed it at the headquarters of the Central Government, while it has been denied to the people in this State? The reason, Sir, is not far to seek. It is well known. At the time when prohibition was sought to be introduced, one group in the Congress Party advised the Government to go slow with regard to prohibition while another group said, 'go quick' and because the latter group was influential, the Government introduced total prohibition. I honestly say that the Government are wasting crores of rupees without profiting anybody. But, on the other hand, this prohibition has demoralized people, because people who enforce prohibition have become corrupt. As I said, even women and children are drinking. Still the Government will not see their way to retrace their steps because they stand on false prestige and they think that their prestige will suffer, if they now withdraw. Now we are asked by the Hon. Minister for Finance in his budget speech to congratulate the Ministry on their false prestige. They know that prohibition is a failure, but still they persist in it. I say, Sir, first scrap prohibition. Then scrap this khadi scheme. Let people who want to wear khaddar on principle, spin and produce khaddar cloth themselves. Why should Government waste crores of rupees for the encouragement of a stuff which is very costly and which is only a 'political fad' with the Congress Party? Why not spend the money on some other better objects? That is my second suggestion, Sir.

"Then, Sir, my third suggestion is, 'increase production'. I am sure, Sir, that my Hon. Friend the Finance Minister knows that our national income has always a direct relation with the income of the State. If production increases, our national income will also increase and if national income increases, the finances of the State will correspondingly increase. Therefore, I say, prevent waste, increase production; then automatically the national income will increase and the standard of living of the people will increase. Let a committee be set up to enquire into the waste and the loss that are incurred by the Government on State trading and nationalizing schemes."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"In 1949-50 we have spent nothing on State trading schemes. The whole scheme is self-supporting."

[9th March 1950]

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—"I ask, Sir, 'Have you audited the accounts of your State trading schemes?' Unless the accounts of the State trading schemes are audited, it is not possible for us to accept such a statement. Somebody should audit these accounts and let him say that the figures are correct."

"My last suggestion, Sir, is this. My hon. Friend Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rao said the other day in this House that the Government must collect the cost of lands from those tenants who are benefited by the abolition of the zamindaris, because most of them are intermediaries. I heard this on a previous occasion. What is the object of the zamindari legislation? Is the object to abolish the intermediaries and make the tillers of the soil the owners thereof? In the United Provinces about Rs. 2½ crores have been collected from the tenants. You are not collecting anything from the tenants, who are really intermediaries. Because they are a powerful section of the population and because they are the supporters of the Congress Party, the Government do not want to collect anything from them. (Sri M. Narayana Rao : 'The State is benefited thereby'.) It is not a question of the State being benefited. The State can make a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs by means of the zamindari abolition from the tenants. The Finance Minister in his speech is frank enough to admit that not a single pie has come to the coffers of the Government on account of the abolition of the zamindaris. But, on the other hand, the Government are spending Rs. 12½ crores for the intermediaries whom they ought to eliminate. I ask, why do you waste public money like this? You are not giving any benefit to the actual cultivators, but you are giving lands to these intermediaries. I hope, Sir, that the Chief Minister of the State for whom we have the greatest regard, admiration and respect will go into this matter and see if he can collect anything from the tenants who are the beneficiaries of this legislation. This legislation, as you know, Sir, is putting a sum of Rs. 12½ crores into the pockets of these zamindars. If the Government take into consideration and give effect to all the three suggestions I have made just now, they will be able to get crores of rupees and they can utilize them for various public utility and nation-building services."

"Sir, I am sorry that I have spoken longer than I intended. I must have criticized the Government in strong language. I hope, Sir, that the Government will take my suggestions for what they are worth and see if they can adopt any of them and thereby increase their revenues and improve the financial position of this State. At the same time I wish, Sir, that a convention might be established that every Minister whose departments came in for criticism in these debates may get up and say, 'This is what I have done and this is what I propose to do'. Such a convention will be healthy one and conduce to the reality of these debates. If any Minister does not do so, then I take it that he has nothing to say and that he does not know what his department does."

* DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN :—"Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, in spite of the very hard words from the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I should like to join in the chorus of congratulations offered

[Dr. P. S. Srinivasan] [9th March 1950]

by many hon. Members of the House to the Hon. Finance Minister for the presentation of a balanced budget. I want to say only a few words in this connection and that is about the Government Order which was passed very recently requiring the chemists and druggists as well as medical practitioners to take out a licence for selling tinctures and spirituous preparations. Sir, there was a cry from people outside that prohibition was not working satisfactorily, that the prohibition officers were not doing their duties properly and that people were drinking everywhere and so the prohibition officers in order to divert the attention of the Government and of the people, said that doctors and chemists and druggists were supplying certain spirituous preparations and certain tinctures to people and thus make them drink. I know, Sir, that many of these tinctures have been prohibited although they are innocuous, and doctors used them simply to flavour the mixtures and to give them some taste. These tinctures and spirituous preparations are added to the mixture, just like sugar-coated pills in order that the patients may take the mixtures without difficulty. To-day tincture cardamom and tincture zingiberis which are prohibited were being used by doctors for prescription only as a flavouring agent. Sometimes when a patient suffers from indigestion or from want of appetite doctors generally prescribe mixtures and add these spirituous preparations in order to promote or stimulate appetite. They are not at all intoxicants, nor can they do any harm to the patients. I do not know why these things alone attracted the attention of the prohibition officers for being prohibited from use, while there are so many other alcoholic preparations, which are more harmful. No doubt tinctures are spirituous preparations and they contain a certain amount of alcohol and these tinctures, if taken in very large quantities, or if they are taken in along with drugs which contain a large percentage of alcohol, produce a certain amount of intoxication, and the patients feel the effect of an alcoholic drink.

1 p.m. "But it is not merely enough to show that these tinctures were being drunk by the people but it should also have been shown that doctors were consulted in the matter. Doctors would have given the Minister some method by which these medicines could be controlled. But all on a sudden, an order was issued and druggists, chemists and doctors were prohibited from using them without licence. These licences are not granted for nothing. These licences cost money. Each licence costs Rs. 15, and it is valid for a year. These have got to be renewed. These licences are not generally got easily from the authorities. For example, I may say that these licences were applied for in December, and they were issued in February. These licences will expire by the end of March. People had to pay Rs. 15 for this licence. It is all right if tinctures and spirituous preparations are prohibited in the City where we have got a number of chemists and druggists' shops. Doctors prescribe them, and people easily get them from the shops. But this is not so in the villages. In the village probably the doctor is a doctor as well as a chemist and druggist. In many places and in towns also it is like that. In the village, the doctor is not given a free hand in prescribing what he thinks

9th March 1950] [Dr. P. S. Srinivasan]

and in dispensing what he thinks. Probably the Government thought that by the issue of licences to as many as 6,000 doctors, they might get a revenue of Rs. 90,000 very easily, because every doctor, under the provisions of the order, has to take out a licence if he is to dispense medicines. I heard the Hon. Minister for Prohibition replying to a supplementary question put by Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar whether he would consult the medical associations, that he would. I do not know what happened later. A deputation waited on the Hon. Minister. About 118 doctors were charged by the Prohibition officers and prosecuted, but thanks to the intervention of some higher official, the prosecutions were withdrawn. It is high time that the Government appoint a commission to go into this question.

"Sir, we doctors do not want that people should drink tinctures and spirituous preparations without any limit, and that they should get intoxicated or infringe the laws of Prohibition. But I am sure the Government will consult leading medical associations or leading doctors in the State and find out how best the difficulty could be minimised and prevented. I wish to say that the Government should take into their confidence the medical associations in this State and try to bring about some method by which medical men will not be restricted in the use of these tinctures and spirituous preparations.

"Sir, many hon. Members in this House and also in the other House, complained that Prohibition was a failure, and that illicit distillation was on the increase. But so far as my enquiries go, a superior officer of the department told me that cases of illicit distillation were on the whole not more than what they were before Prohibition. Of course, now it attracts the public eye, and it is very easy for everybody to say that Prohibition is not enforced properly. They ask what is the use of the Government losing money like this? We all know, Sir, that we do not find any drunken man on the roadside nowadays. Drink has, to a very large extent, gone out. With all this it is stated by some that Prohibition Act is not worked properly, and that the Prohibition Officers are all sleeping. It is all easy to say that illicit distillation should be stopped. There are the Prohibition officers and the subordinate staff. Who are actually the people who distil illicitly? They are the moneyed people, the renters who were getting lot of money by the sale of arrack and liquor. These people employ a large number of poor people who have nothing to fall back upon, and encourage them to distil. These poor people are supplied with all the materials necessary for distillation. They are given only a small wage, and the bigger portion of the profit goes to the moneyed man. If these poor people's houses are raided, what happens is that the person who encouraged them to distil liquor illicitly, takes away his things to the other village and carries on his trade leaving the poor people to go to jail and face any other punishment under the law. The moneyed man is not at all affected. Unless the people who encourage the poor people to distil, are handed up to the authorities and punished, it is not possible for the Prohibition officers to find out the real men behind

[Dr. P. S. Srinivasan] [9th March 1950]

the scenes. There is no use of blaming the Government or the Prohibition Officers that illicit distillation is going on. People must actively co-operate with the Government, and unless they do so, it is not possible to eradicate illicit distillation.

Now I come to amelioration measures. The amelioration measures were suggested and introduced by the Government immediately after Prohibition was introduced. They thought that the habitual drunkard would require a substitute for drink, and, therefore, they provided tea and coffee houses, and made arrangements for giving him entertainments in the evening and engaging him in games. It was a novel procedure, and people liked it for a month or two. But now after Prohibition has been in force for about 18 months, I think it is not necessary that the amelioration department should think of games like 'Chadu gudu' and the staging of dramas for the entertainment of the drunkards. The whole amelioration department has now become a superfluity (or a waste), and I should think the sooner that department is abolished the better it will be for the State. The people who are now engaged in amelioration activities could be easily drafted to the other departments.

Now, I come to municipalities. Municipalities in this State are simply marking time and are unable to give better amenities to the rate payers. There are nearly 82 municipalities in this State, and in 25 of them there is no protected water supply. Then, only five or six municipalities can boast of drainage schemes. Even the drainage schemes of these five or six municipalities are not complete. Even in the City of Madras the drainage scheme is not complete. As such, the Government cannot say that they have done justice by the municipalities. The municipalities are unable to find the finances themselves, and they very often go to the Government for a loan and a grant. The Government say that they cannot make any grants. It is not also possible for them to give loans. Working under these conditions, it is impossible for any municipality to make any improvement at all. Schemes and plans which are sanctioned by the municipalities, take a very long time to get sanctioned by the Government, and put into execution. Many schemes do not find the light of the day for three or five years—not even during the term of the Council or two terms of the Council. These things should be remedied. The Hon. the Minister for Local Administration has been stating that these will be remedied. I do not know when the time will come for remedying this state of affairs.

Next, with regard to controls in municipalities. Controls, Sir, have become far too many. It was stated that controls were war time measures, but even now, five years after the war is over, they are continued. I wish that the Government will immediately look into this and remove all controls.

Now, Sir, I come to panchayats. It is now twelve years since elections to panchayats were due. The members of the panchayats, the inspecting officers and the supervising staff are not able to do anything at all. The present panchayats have all become rusty and the members are in office beyond their term, and these

9th March 1950] [Dr. P. S. Srinivasan]

panchayats cannot do anything at all. As my hon. friend Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar stated, adult franchise should not be encouraged now, and the Village Panchayats Bill should not be brought into force. I do not know what else should be substituted, and whether the public would say that there should not be adult suffrage. In spite of all this, according to the present Act, elections should be held in these panchayats very soon, and fresh blood should be brought into these panchayats.

I wish to say a word now about the medical profession. The medical profession is suffering from the prohibition of the use of the drug 'streptomycin'. We all know that this drug was introduced into the medical field about four or five years ago, and people were allowed, in beginning to get as much of this as was required on permits from the District Medical Officers. The doctors were using this drug for tuberculosis cases. Certainly this drug seems to have done some good in some cases. But all on a sudden an order was issued saying that the permit should be got from tuberculosis specialists and not from District Medical Officers. We do not know who the specialists are. The Government have not defined who is an expert. District Medical Officers are not experts. Probably the Government mean by the term 'experts' persons with diplomas in tuberculosis, or the heads of institutions in the City hospitals. But the result of this is that the doctor is not able to get his streptomycin for his use. Any tuberculosis patient who goes to the doctor wants this drug. The Government may impose a condition that doctors should not misuse it. Previously the District Medical Officer was exercising some control over the use of this drug. But the latest order that only experts should give this drug, is rather too much, and it is impossible for a person suffering from tuberculosis to get this drug. Many a man suffers from tuberculosis, and he would certainly die of a broken heart because he would think that he had not all the benefits of modern medicine. I wish the Government will go into this question and remove this control.

"With these words, I resume my seat."

JANAB K. UPPI:—"Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, almost at the fag-end of the budget discussion I am speaking. There are only fifteen minutes more. I feel that the House is also almost tired of speeches, congratulations and denouncements. So, I cut short my speech and will refer to only one very important point. The Hon. the Finance Minister himself seems to have not expected congratulations or thanks from the Members. He himself has said "The budget that I have presented contains no surprises, nor does it hold any hope of immediate relief from existing taxation." So, he was not expecting any congratulation. I cannot also join in the chorus of congratulations for many reasons. He has said that he has not made up the Revenue Reserve Fund from 33 crores to 34 crores but he has balanced his budget except for a deficit of about 35 lakhs which will be made up in the course of the year by some adjustment. But regarding the opening and closing balance, it is said that the year 1950-51 is expected to start with a balance

1-15
p.m.

[Janab K. Uppi]

[9th March 1950]

of Rs. 37.99 crores and close with a cash balance of Rs. 58 lakhs and securities worth Rs. 23.52 crores, without allowing for any new loans that may be raised. So, the Government are going to draw from the Reserve Fund to the tune of about 14 crores."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I have not touched the Revenue Reserve Fund but because of the capital expenditure I will only touch the cash balances investment amount."

JANAB K. UPPI:—"In making a general survey of the budget, I do not propose to traverse the same grounds which many of my hon. Friends have touched. All that I want to find out is 'Has this Government succeeded in the administration of the State in the last four years?'. Taking a sum-total of the work done, the Party in power has failed in its administration at least in one respect. It has spent crores of rupees for food production. (Dr. V. K. John: 'Your opinion is that they have failed.') That is my opinion. Whether it is their opinion or not will be made clear in the evening. They have spent crores, not lakhs, for growing more food. The ultimate result of all this, according to them, is that in the current year the output is about 9 lakhs tons short of what it was in the previous year. So, there has been no return for the crores of public money, taxpayers' money, spent. Why? There must be some serious defect somewhere which we have to find out and remedy. (Dr. V. K. John: 'Something rotten.') Whatever it may be, it is a glaring fact that at least in this matter the Government have failed."

"Another aspect of the problem is this. When this party came to power, the people were getting at least 12 oz. of food. After this Party came to power, the quantum of food rationed out began to diminish either by itself or was reduced by others and it has come now to 8 oz. The fear is that it may even go down to 6 oz. That fear is already in the air. Previously we were having 85 or 87 per cent of our food in India itself. This State also was not dependent very much on other places or countries for its food. Now we find that we are far short of food and that we have to live on 8 ounces of rice and sometimes even without food. As a first step in wiping off the food shortage this Government introduced in Malabar and other places producer-cum-consumers' co-operative societies. I warned the Government even then and it has now become a malady or bugbear to this Government. About 108 corporations were working for about 3 months, collecting more than a crore and a half rupees, and all food distribution was entrusted in their hands. The corporation soon became a ground for embezzlement, pilfering and many other immoral acts other than the distribution of food to the suffering public. After a year or so one of the Collectors in Malabar made an enquiry and found that about 88 people were involved in embezzlement, loss of money and stock. There are not even half a dozen societies in Malabar of which we can say that accounts are kept correct or embezzlement has not occurred. Just now I have received a copy of a report about a society in Palghat, the area of Mr. Narayana Menon. It is reported that about 1,400 bags of rice are missing. It was reported

[9th March 1950] [Janab K. Uppi]

to the Collector and he has passed an order. I have just handed over the paper to the Hon. Minister. I shall read it out:—

‘PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLLECTOR OF MALABAR, CALICUT,
DATED 4th FEBRUARY 1950.

SRI PRASAD, I.C.S

[Co-operative Societies—P.C.C.S., Kizhakkethara—Shortage in stock
on 30th June 1949—Allegations.]

On 5th July 1949 the Collector received a telegram from one Padmanabha Menon regarding an alleged shortage of 1,400 bags of paddy in the stock with the P.C.C.S., Kizhakkethara, which the officers deputed to verify the stocks on 30th June 1949 could not detect. This telegram was followed by a petition from one Abdurrahiman Sahib, dated 13th August 1949, addressed to the Board of Rev. (C). The enquiry conducted by the A.T.S.O., Alathur and the D.S.O. (S) into these allegations have revealed the following facts:—

1. That there was a shortage of 354 bags of paddy in the stock on 30th June 1949.

2. This shortage was due to the fact that the purchasing agent, the miller and secretary acting in collusion, advanced moneys to the agent of the Valia Rani of Kollengode with a view to oblige him, when he had no paddy to offer for sale to the society. In order to hoodwink the auditor and the inspecting officers it was exhibited in the accounts that this quantity of paddy was booked and kept on bond with the Rani's agent.

3. That knowing fully well that these were fictitious transactions the then President Sri K. Nagumani, Vice-President Sri K. Rangasami Pillai and director Sri Sivaraman Pillai signed a bogus verification statement on 30th June 1949 certifying that the stock was correct. Of them the President has resigned but the two directors continue.

4. That being fully aware that the stock was not available the secretary subscribed to the above stock verification statement with the obvious purpose of screening the fraud.

In the circumstances stated above the Collector is of opinion that it is most inadvisable to place any reliance on persons of this kind and that inasmuch as any institution with which such persons are associated is bound to degenerate they should forthwith be relieved from office. The Collector accordingly issues the following instructions:—

(1) The two directors should resign forthwith.

(2) The services of the secretary and the purchasing agent should be dispensed with giving them the minimum notice prescribed under the rules."

"This order is dated the 4th February 1950. But nothing has happened till now. All these persons are still there and the society is still continuing to exist. There are many other cases like this. It was reported in my own town that a large amount of money and stock had disappeared. God alone knows where it has gone. There is nobody to check these things. That is the present state of affairs. So, I would suggest to the Government to take immediate steps to hold a thorough enquiry into the working of the societies in Malabar. We were unfortunate in having to keep this society for a long time. In Andhradesa, Mr. Gopala Reddi has been able to tackle it at the very beginning. Now, Sir, it is reported that influence was brought to bear on the Collector to intervene and hush up the matter."

"The people are put to so much hardship. Then what is the remedy for all these things? Of course, we have to think of de- 1.30
control. My Hon. Friend Dr. Rajan even from the very beginning p.m.
has been trying to remove these controls and he did succeed to a certain extent. The moment people came to know that controls

[Janab K. Uppi] [9th March 1950]

would be removed, actually, food production increased in Malabar. Now when they have reintroduced controls, food production has gone down in Malabar, in spite of the Government's Grow More Food campaign. The production of food is gradually going down. Have the Government thought why this should be so? The ordinary ryot is undergoing untold miseries and trouble. He has to toil in the scorching sun and pouring rain. What is the ultimate result? He does not get the thing for which he has worked throughout the year. The Procurement Officers and the village karnam and other village officers are at his doors and his house is searched and everything that he has is taken away. For this he does not get even a good price. He gets only the price fixed by the Government. The poor ryot has to get so many other necessities of life, the prices of which have increased enormously, in recent times. That is the position. So remove these controls at least in particular areas and observe what happens."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:—"The hon. Member can continue his speech after lunch. I now adjourn the House to meet again at 2-30 p.m."

The House then adjourned for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

JANAB K. UPPI:—"Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I was saying something about the diseases prevalent in Societies which have to be terminated as early as possible. This was with regard to food. You may ask what is the remedy I have to suggest regarding food. Food is in short supply in the country at the present moment. I do not want for a moment to give up control tomorrow morning. That should be done gradually. I suggest that you have some system of procurement, other than the present system. The present system leaves the ryot entirely at the mercy of the village officers. I suggest that a system like the levy system may be introduced so that the ryots might know where they stand, and what part of their produce they have to surrender to the Government. Then there will be an incentive for the ryot to produce more. As I said in the beginning, we are at the fag-end of the budget discussion. So I do not wish to traverse the whole budget. I want to deal with certain points which I think I should bring to the notice of the Government on this occasion.

"With regard to the Agricultural Department, that is the one department with which I can claim some long connexion, as I myself am an agriculturist. I should say that that department has since the last five or six years become more a distributing department than an agricultural administration department. The demonstrators have no time to attend to their legitimate work as they have to sit in their offices as much as possible and distribute iron and steel and manure to the villagers. They have to keep cows and attend to so many other things; so much so they have practically no time at all to go to the villagers and advise them or induce the ryots to take to more scientific methods of cultivation.

[9th March 1950] [Janab K. Uppi]

"With regard to the Veterinary department, I have to say that, so far as I feel, that department is more a waste than an utility. There are taluk doctors and veterinary surgeons. What are they actually doing? Practically they are not doing anything. They are simply travelling throughout the taluk, visit villages and report to the Government. Are they really doing any service? So far as I can see we are not getting anything in return—even one tenth of what we have been spending on them. Either we have to mend it or we have to end that department and save the tax-payer's money. I do not wish that there should not be any Veterinary department. It is as much necessary as our Public Health Department, but I feel that the present system is of no use to the country.

"There is another matter which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government. Recently, some two or three years ago, the Government of India established the Forest College in Coimbatore. I understand that College is about to be closed. Has this Government taken up this matter and represented to the Government of India that they should not close it because, we have to send our young men to northern India for training in Forestry. Northern Indian conditions differ very much from the forest conditions of our place. Our young men, even after studying in northern Indian colleges have to come here and spend some time for training in our parts. It would be a great hardship for the people of this Presidency to go all the way to Dehra Dun and get this training. It is up to this Government to raise their voice and try to keep the college not only for the benefit of this Presidency, but also for the benefit of the whole of India. Our forest conditions differ from those obtaining in the northern parts of India.

"Sir, there is another matter on which I wish to congratulate the Government. I cannot but congratulate them for the bold way in which they have handled the Prohibition question. They have taken the boldest step in introducing total Prohibition, in this State. In spite of great risks, this Government has taken courage to introduce that in this Presidency. In that matter, this State is unique throughout India and I wish that it will be an example throughout the world of how Prohibition can be successfully introduced in this country. There are people, who say that we have lost a huge sum of revenue. This evil, which is the mother of all evils in the world, has got to be stopped at any cost. The Government have taken a bold step in the right direction and I warmly congratulate them. It was said in this House that every house has been converted into an illicit distillation house. I do not have that experience. So far as I know, every house-holder that I have come across is a complete teetotaler. I am really sorry that the above statement has come from the mouth of a Muslim. I am a Mussalman and I feel that the policy adopted by the Government is a correct one. For a Muslim to complain that the Government ought not to have resorted to Prohibition as it will entail loss of revenue, is really shameful.

[Janab K. Uppi]

[9th March 1950]

Perhaps it may be his experience that every house is engaged in illicit distillation. But my experience is otherwise. Illicit distillation may be going on here and there. In spite of all the laws and in spite of all the preventive measures that one might take, you will still find that evils will be prevalent on the face of the earth. We cannot prevent evil completely. It is impossible. We have to fight the evil with as much determination as possible. My firm belief is that no State which is carried on with tainted money can continue long and prosper. Only with honest, true and good money we can run any institution permanently.

2-45 p.m. "I have to bring another matter to the notice of the Government. We have got in the City of Madras one of the best Ophthalmic hospitals. This is the best in the whole of Asia, if not in the world. On account of its reputation, people from far and wide resort to that hospital for medical aid. I understand that there are recommendations for the expansion of the hospital and the Government have also an idea to help that hospital to expand, but want of space is said to be the reason for delaying its expansion. Now, there is a plot of land adjacent to that which belongs, I am told, to the Police Department. I would request the Government that, since this hospital is rendering some sort of humanitarian service and has built up a reputation for itself throughout Asia, the plot of land I have just referred to may be allotted to this institution, if need be, by giving some other land to the Police Department, so that the institution may not go down in its work for want of space. It is also understood that that hospital is going to be kept in the charge of an Assistant Surgeon. Up till now, it seems that an officer of the rank of the District Medical Officer was in charge of it. Now the Government as a matter of retrenchment perhaps or it might be due to other reasons also which I do not know, are going to reduce the status of the officer in charge. I do not know the exact designation of the new post. My hon. Friend, Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu knows it better as he is a Member of the Advisory Committee . . ."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" May I, Sir, with your permission explain the position. Now, there is one Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent in charge of the hospital who is of the status of Civil Surgeon. It is proposed, I am afraid, that the officer in charge should be of the Assistant Civil Surgeon's grade. If the status is reduced from that of Civil Surgeon, that will greatly affect the working of the institution."

JANAB K. UPPI :—" Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am thankful to my hon. Friend for having clarified the position, and I hope the Hon. the Minister in charge of the Medical department will note that. On account of shortage of time, my whole programme has been upset. I cannot go into the budget in detail but can say only this much. I would like to tell the Hon. the Minister for Finance that the way of balancing the budget is not by increasing the taxes alone. There are ever so many other methods of balancing a budget. He has increased our taxes to the tune of seventeen to nineteen crores of rupees, in the last few years. I

9th March 1950]

[Janab K. Uppi]

would tell him that there are ways like retrenchment in services, keeping in abeyance schemes which can remain in abeyance for some time without injury to the State interests and so on. The Hon. the Finance Minister told us in his first speech that he would keep watch over the finances of the Province—like a watchdog—and would not allow people to encroach upon his pocket, his purse. Well what has actually happened? He has yielded to others, not on one occasion but on several occasions. Formerly, as far as I can remember, there was a Finance Committee before which schemes used to be placed for examination. The Committee would discuss the matter, divide the schemes into those of immediate necessity, those which could afford to remain for some time and those which could be shelved for ever. Thus there used to be three or four categories into which schemes were divided. But to-day there is no such committee. The Finance Minister sits with other Ministers—The Public Works Minister, the Public Health Minister and the Minister for Law and Education—and takes decisions. He consults them because he wants their help. His policy seems to be like,

'Tickle me Toby,
I will tickle thee'

(laughter).

The Government must take the Legislature into their confidence. They must constitute a Finance Committee and place their schemes before that committee for scrutiny. The budget should be drawn up in the light of the committee's recommendations. If this procedure is adopted, that would be a better policy, that would be a more healthy policy than the one now pursued, namely, the Ministers dividing huge sums of money among themselves. With these words, Sir, I finish my remarks."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir. Religion has been dragged in by the hon. Member who has just spoken when he referred to Prohibition. He said that I as a Muslim should not have attacked the Prohibition policy of the Government. I must state, Sir, that there is absolutely no justification for religion being dragged in here. He is equally a Muslim like myself and if he is so very touchy about the matter, let him not touch a pie of Government money which he gets by way of salary and travelling allowance. Government money is also tainted money in that the revenues derived from the issue of permits for drinks also constitute a portion thereof. The money is got by allowing intoxicating drinks being supplied to certain categories of people who are issued permits. Therefore, it is tainted money. If he is not ashamed of taking his salary and allowances from this tainted money, then he should not be ashamed of my remarks also."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—" It is the general desire of the House that as many Ministers as possible should reply to the discussion. I thought that I could ask the Ministers to begin

[The Deputy Chairman] [9th March 1950]

their replies at 3 p.m. Since, however, the Leader of the Opposition has suggested to me that Dr. Tajuddin should be given a few minutes I would call upon him to speak. He will be the last speaker."

SRI G. VENKATA REDDI:—"I request I may be given five minutes."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:—"The hon. Dr. Tajuddin will take ten minutes and the hon. Mr. Venkata Reddi, five minutes, after which Hon. Ministers will reply."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN:—"Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for having so kindly allowed me a few minutes to place my views before this House. I have been enjoying the display of intellectual pyrotechnics, as it were, for the last three days. (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi: 'Hear, hear.') The budget session is nothing more or nothing less than a big hoax or a farce . . ."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Then, why do you take part in it?" (Laughter.)

DR. V. K. JOHN:—"Just to say it is a farce." (Laughter.)

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN:—"The reason for my taking part in the discussion is to bring home to the actors that they are not really acting but only they are just dreaming that they are doing certain things. Sir, perhaps I am one of the oldest of the Legislators in this Province. For nearly three decades, I have seen good, bad and indifferent budgets presented before the Legislatures. I have noticed all along one special feature on the part of the Treasury Benches, whatever its complexion, or on the part of the Finance Minister, whoever he might be, and that is, he used to have one sheet anchor, one burden of the song, namely:

'Want of finance prevents me from carrying out certain projects in the interest of the public'.

He used to call himself a master cutter, a master tailor and say that he could cut the coat only according to the cloth available forgetting at the same time that he or his party is responsible for furnishing the cloth also. But here, our Finance Minister throws the blame upon somebody else saying that somebody has not provided the cloth. Sir, for the sins of his party the public should not be made to suffer. Why should they before giving mature consideration, launch upon total Prohibition on one fine morning? I believe in Prohibition. I am a teetotaler out and out and am for it. But yet prudence requires you to take gradual steps. The Congress party, though with the best of intentions, has bungled in this matter miserably. By introducing total Prohibition ahead of the other States, they wanted to win the brightest jewel for their diadem. After all, when they have done a particular thing, they should have seen how it is working and if they find

9th March 1950]

[Dr. Syed Tajuddin]

it is not working successfully, they should either mend it or end it. Sir, once I called upon the wife of an ex Minister—I would not disclose the name of the person—and she told me that she had dispensed with the services of her driver that morning. I asked, 'why'. The reply was, 'I found the fellow drunk and he was not fit to drive the car and therefore, I immediately dismissed him'. What does this mean? It means that arrack or some equivalent of it is easily available to Tom, Dick and Harry. This is the way how things are happening and that under the very nose of the Government. Sir, if the Government want to make Prohibition a success they must do two or three things. They should try through the influence of the Central Government to wipe out the foreign settlements or possessions in this State like Karaikal and Pondicherry from where I learn, thousands, tens of thousands of foreign liquor cases are being smuggled into this State, so much so that foreign liquor is flowing into Madras State in floods. It would not be too much to say that this Government may get submerged under that flood. So the first thing should be to wipe out of the map of South India these plague spots. Secondly they should tighten up supervision over the department. There is a lot of corruption. If there had been no corruption, so much foreign liquor could not have come in. Thirdly, the people must also develop their character. It is no use blaming the Government alone. If everyone were to discharge his duty by his neighbour and see that everyone that drinks is reported to the Police, better results can be achieved. The addicts also must put a check upon themselves. Then it will be easier for the department to administer Prohibition successfully.

"The other day, the Hon. the Finance Minister, speaking in the other House, characterized the Commercial Tax Department as *Kamadhenu* . . ."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"In the budget 3 p.m. speech, it is used."

* DR. SYED TAJUDDIN:—"I would like to put it to him: Is it the Finance Minister's, the Government's *Kamadhenu* or the people's *Kamadhenu*—the sacred animal that grants the desires of all people or the owner? I ask whose desires are granted. This Sales-tax department is twice cursed, it curses the man that sells and curses the man that buys, more the man that buys than the man that sells.

"This budget is supposed to be a balanced budget though there is a small deficit of 35 lakhs of rupees or so. The budget seems to be something like an algebraic equation. The duty of the Finance Minister is only to work out an algebraic equation—just total up this side, it amounts to so much and total up the expenditure, it amounts to so much. Is that all the talent that is expected of a Finance Minister? Then it can be asked: What else can he do? Can he mint money out of dust and dirt? No, I do not say so. My grievance is that this Government have not initiated productive and self-liquidating schemes, schemes that

[Dr. Syed Tajuddin]

[9th March 1950]

would pay, though not immediately, at least after some time. Have they laid the foundation for these things. How many schemes have been divulged in this budget? I do not see any. They are simply conspicuous by their absence.

"Sir, this country is considered to be one of the two great agricultural countries, the other being China. But what is the state of agriculture in this country? You are only having anti-diluvian methods of agriculture. We fight shy of modern agricultural science. For name's sake there are a few tractors here and a few mowers there and a few other such machinery scattered in some holes and corners. Is that sufficient to solve the food problem which is going from bad to worse, from year to year.

"One of the reasons for such failures is that some square Ministers are put in round holes and round Ministers in some square holes. In the last one century it was considered that I.C.S. Officers—British I.C.S. Officers—were multi-faced geniuses. An I.C.S. Officer was considered an expert for any department. Wherever you might put him, he was considered to be a genius. And so even at present the Ministers without any consideration for their qualifications or for their expert or skilled knowledge—of course everyone has got his own special line—are allotted portfolios in which they are mere cyphers. Even till very recently our Hon. Dr. Rajan was handling some other portfolio in which I do not think he would have been so proficient as he could be in the Medical department. With due deference to the talents of the Hon. Ministers, I say, portfolios should be allotted on certain principles. You must know the life, history and the qualifications, the talents and the special experience of a particular Minister to handle a particular department. A lawyer is put in charge of Agricultural department. A medical man is put to something else and an engineer is handling some other department. I need not enter into particulars. Each has got his own strong points and weak points. It is too late in the day to bring these to the notice of the Treasury Bench. I do not think there will be reshuffling of the portfolios unless the life of the Council and the Assembly is extended too long that such changes might come in.

"With regard to education I would like to make one or two observations. The adult franchise is on the offing. At such a stage, should we not have free and compulsory education? Without literacy how can the people understand the election pledges, what is expected of them, how to vote and in what way to vote and all that. I am afraid, Sir, I have exceeded my time. I will take some other occasion to say more. Thank you, Sir."

* SRI G. VENKATA REDDI :—"I rise on this occasion to congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister and other Ministers as well for having presented a balanced budget and at the same time to make a few suggestions. This is the only opportunity for us to just offer some suggestions and give vent to the feelings of the people that we represent. I come from Anantapur district which is represented to be a famine-stricken district, a poor district. All the particulars and records with the Government clearly show that

[9th March 1950]

[Sri G. Venkata Reddi]

lakhs after lakhs have been spent towards relief works in that district whenever there is a famine. Of course, famines are periodical and occur every four years. In the past ten years I have seen three and have worked in famine relief. The Government came to the rescue of the people and opened relief centres and spent lakhs and lakhs. If the Government were to peruse the old records they would clearly understand how many crores they would have spent for the last sixty years. Still I am at a loss to know why the Government have not thought of having permanent relief. Our wants are simple. We have got one river which takes its source in Mysore State, the adjoining State of ours and flows in my district but the water is flowing away without being used. No Government has thought over it and tried to give permanent relief by the construction of a dam or some such thing. Of course, last year, the Hon. the Minister for Public Works and Sri Kala Venkata Rao, the General Secretary of the Congress—the former Revenue Minister—both came to the district and laid the foundation stone for two projects there. I do not know when they would be completed. The foundation stones have however been laid. As I have already told you the Mysore State is separated only by a ridge from my district and in the Mysore State as you all know electricity is being supplied to each and every village for agricultural purposes. On this side of the ridge we will be pulling out water with bullocks and buckets while on the other side they are working with electric pumps and all other things. How heart-rending it will be for our ryots?"

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Is the Member supporting or opposing the Government?"

* SRI G. VENKATA REDDI :—"I am coming to that. I am suggesting to the Government that because there is abundance of subsoil water we require only development and the well subsidy scheme has been a beneficent one. So many ryots have taken advantage of this and dug so many wells and so many acres have been brought under cultivation. But the ryots are in a precarious condition now as the prices of bulls are very high, and anticipating that the Government would one day install a power station and supply power, they have dug wells. So far as they are concerned they are ready, but the Government should see that the power is taken from Mysore and supplied to them through a thermal station or some such thing.

"Another thing about which I want to say a few words is this. As far as law and order is concerned, I agree with the hon. Member Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu. Lawlessness prevails to some extent and goondaism is going on in the name of communism. In my district just a month back, some ten villagers gathered about 300 people around them and raided a village, raising Communist slogans, threatened the gentlemen there who have got some influence in the village using all sorts of abuses. They even threatened that they would be killed and must be killed and the Government overthrown. These are common things for them. They are

[Sri G. Venkata Reddi] [9th March 1950]

roaming about even to-day. What is the action that the Government is going to take in these circumstances? Some sections from the Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Penal Code might be applied. But I want the Government to do one thing. As we were doing hitherto, dangerous people were bound over and people under the Criminal Tribes Act, used to be asked to go and sleep with Reddi or report in the police station. Such measures should be taken and lawlessness eradicated. They can have their ideologies, they can fight for them and propagate them. The people may or may not follow them. But this sort of lawlessness, this sort of rudeness and goondaism should not be allowed to exist. I am sure the Government would take stringent action against these people.

"Lastly I request the Hon. Minister for Public Works who laid the foundation stone in my district, to come to our rescue and see that the work is started very soon. With these words, I close my speech."

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"I would like to make a few observations relating to the remarks made by hon. Members in this House. I would also like to express my gratitude to the hon. Members of this House including the Leader of the Opposition for the sense of general satisfaction they have expressed about the departments under my charge.

"Sir, the hon. Member for Kurnool speaking yesterday or day before yesterday expressed his keen disappointment about the achievements of the Government in the matter of irrigation development. I know, Sir, the hon. Member from Kurnool is very keenly interested in the economic development of his district and I can also appreciate his feelings. When so much has to be done it appears to him, that nothing has been done. It is true, we have to do great many things and the things that we have to do are all standing before us accumulated. But I only plead, Sir, that we should not be held responsible for past neglect.

3-15
p.m.

"Sir, I would also like to point out that it is no good ignoring what has been done. I would like to give certain figures which would show that the results are not barren as described by the hon. Member from Kurnool. From 1946, we have been able to sanction, besides the major schemes, 201 grow-more-food schemes which are small irrigation schemes which are expected to yield results in two years or at the most in three years. These 201 grow-more-food schemes which have been sanctioned and are being executed cost Rs. 265 lakhs. Up to this month we have spent on these schemes Rs. 120 lakhs. By December 1949, forty-nine of these 201 grow-more-food schemes were completed and under these 49 schemes which were completed, the ayacut expected to be brought under cultivation including improvements to the existing ayacut would be 56,300 acres. The additional food production estimated from out of this new ayacut is 12,800 tons. Before the end of this year, we do expect that 19 more such grow-more-food schemes would be completed which would yield an ayacut of

[Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam] [9th March 1950]

3,100 acres. Besides these small schemes, we have on hand tank restoration schemes and small irrigation schemes in the zamindari areas. We have also taken up drainage schemes. We have big schemes costing on the whole Rs. 8-20 crores and they are expected to yield an ayacut of one lakh of acres. Under this head we have already spent Rs. 37½ lakhs. Besides all this, we are executing the Tungabhadra Project and we do expect that it would be completed according to schedule by the end of 1952. We are also executing the Lower Bhavani Project. This is also expected to be completed by 1953, if not by 1952. In Rayalaseema area, the schemes that we have sanctioned and are executing are expected to yield an ayacut of 12,882 acres. The hon. Member from Anantapur just now complained that no adequate attention has been paid to his district. It is true that it is one of the poor districts which do need special attention. We have been investigating schemes and as and when schemes are ready, we are taking them for execution. The hon. Member from Anantapur referred to two schemes which are investigated. But, Sir, we cannot proceed with the execution of the schemes till we come to certain agreements with the bordering Mysore State, either in the matter of the division of the waters or in the matter of the submersion of the lands. We have held several conferences with the Members of the Mysore Government. We have been sending them reminders and asking them to confirm the agreement and that is the only delay. It is not in my hands. The Mysore Government should agree. Without coming to any definite agreement, if I should proceed, it would be permanently committing the Province to whatever the Mysore Government would ask, even if it might be unreasonable. Therefore, we are trying to get their concurrence to certain matters which we have put before them. I had a talk with one of the Ministers of that State recently and he has asked us to send our Chief Engineer again. So many conferences have been held before. He said that he would soon intimate his concurrence without further delay.

"Then, Sir, there is the trouble about the supply of electricity referred to by the hon. Member from Anantapur. After long negotiations, talks and discussions, the Mysore Government have agreed to give power from their area to the Rayalaseema area, particularly to Anantapur. But a new hurdle has cropped up. We had come to an agreement about the rates at which they should supply, but when we sent a draft agreement, they suggested that we should also agree to a surcharge, which we felt we could not agree to. I have recently written again to the Minister in charge of Electricity and I have talked to him and I hope that he would not insist on the surcharge, which I feel, would be unreasonable and would be a permanent commitment on our Province. That is the only delay and I do expect that we shall be able to get the concurrence of the Mysore Government so that we can secure power from Mysore and supply electricity to that district, particularly to the agriculturists in that district.

"Sir, I would like to point out again that a certain amount of delay in the matter of the preparation of the schemes by way of

[Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam] [9th March 1950]

investigation is inevitable. We cannot hustle our engineers to produce schemes without proper investigation and at the same time, Sir, I can assure the House that we are avoiding all avoidable delays and we are doing our best to expedite the preparation of the schemes."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" What about Malabar? "

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" We are doing all that is possible for Malabar also. If the hon. Member would visit the Malabar area, he would understand what is being done. He will not be able to understand it by sitting here in Madras."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I suggest to the Hon. Minister that he takes me along with him."

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Certainly, I shall be very happy to take him along with me."

" Sir, the hon. Member from Kurnool is not here now. He will remember that about three years back, I along with him inspected a tank in Kurnool district which had been renovated just before the Ministry came into existence. The renovation of the tank cost Rs. 550 thousand and the ayacut that was expected to be brought under cultivation was 550 acres. So that, it worked out to Rs. 1,000 per acre. That does not matter. Sir; as we are taking up even costlier schemes so far as Rayalaseema and the dry and the neglected areas are concerned. But when I along with the hon. Member from Kurnool inspected the tank and enquired about it, I was told that that year they had the heaviest rains in that area, but still I found there was water only for 100 acres in that tank although the capacity of the tank for water was for 550 acres. But even then I found that only 25 acres had been brought under cultivation. Therefore, Sir, it is necessary to do all the investigation so as to find how much water would be available and how much land could be brought under cultivation so that the money spent should not on any account be wasted. I may say, Sir, that even up to date the ayacut under that tank has not been fully developed. Sir, even in the Rayalaseema area, the schemes that have been sanctioned so far would give an ayacut of 12,882 acres."

" The hon. Member from Visakhapatnam, Mr. Venkatachalamaji mentioned about the needs of his district. I would like to tell the House, that it is one of the districts that have been neglected in the past, but we have now taken up 20 small irrigation schemes in that district which would be completed by the end of 1952, namely, the end of the target period fixed by the Government of India under the Grow-More-Food Campaign. These 20 schemes cost Rs. 1½ crores. Besides these 20 schemes, another 10 schemes are under investigation. We have taken up important tanks and other works in the estates. We have been attending to the development of irrigation in the zamindari areas in the Province."

" Sir, the hon. Member from Cuddapah is very keenly interested in his own district. As we are aware, he is a very earnest

9th March 1950] [Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam]

Member. He pleaded rather pathetically that the Gandikotta Project has not been taken up although it was put in the list of post-war development irrigation schemes. Again, Sir, we have not unnecessarily delayed the preparation of the scheme. The scheme was investigated in 1945, but the results of investigation were found to be inadequate. We have to find how much water would be available and how the scheme should be designed. Again in 1945-46, there were no rains and there was no flow and no gaugings could be made. Also the drills were not available. The foundation of the project is a complex problem and the drills which were necessary for examining the foundations were not available. Sometimes, that caused delay in spite of the best efforts of the Public Works Department. The scheme is now almost ready. As I told the hon. Member when he was speaking, it is not now linked up with the Krishna-Pennar Project. It is not to be delayed on account of the Krishna-Pennar Project. We will take up the project as soon as the plans and the estimates are ready and can be sanctioned. We do propose to link it up ultimately with the Krishna-Pennar Project when it comes into existence, so that the capacity of this project could be enhanced. With that view, it is also proposed to alter the site. Only this morning I saw a newspaper report that the Cuddapah District Board has passed a resolution demanding of the Government to take up this project immediately. Sir, mere resolutions cannot enable the Government to take up the project. The resolution mentions that on account of the postponement of the formation of the Andhra Province, this project must be taken up immediately. I am unable to understand the connexion between the formation of the Andhra Province and the execution of this project. (At this stage, the Chairman, the Hon. Sri R. B. Ramakrishna Raju, who had been unable to preside over the meetings for the last three days, occupied the Chair.)

" Mr. Chairman, may I express to you on behalf of the House, our great pleasure in seeing you here at your post of duty in spite of your ill-health and congratulate you on your providential escape. (Cheers from all sides of the House.)

" Again, Sir, the hon. Member from Cuddapah just hinted, while he was talking about the delay in the taking up of the Gandikotta Project, though he did not himself mean it, about certain loose talks with regard to possible discrimination between Andhra and Tamil. I can at once tell the House, Sir, that the only remedy for this kind of unfounded suspicions and wild allegations is the formation of the Andhra Province. So far as the Government are concerned, no linguistic consideration weigh with them in the matter of framing and executing the programme. We only take up areas which are neglected areas and where there is a possibility of irrigational development. We frame a programme and carry it out subject to limitations of finance and limitations of availability of materials and technical personnel."

" Even if I have to give some figures, based on linguistic divisions, I could show, Sir, that there is no discrimination. So far in the non-Andhra districts, 89 schemes have been sanctioned

3-30
P.M.

[Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam] [9th March 1950]

which should yield an ayacut of 126,055 acres; and in the Andhra area, excluding the Tungabhadra Project, 137 schemes have been sanctioned which should yield an ayacut of 119,991 acres. I have given some figures about Rayalaseema. We have already taken up on hand 11 schemes in the Rayalaseema area which should give 6,142 acres; 5 other schemes are under consideration which should give 1,191 acres, and we have made provision in this budget for another 26 schemes in the Rayalaseema which we do expect to take up in the course of the year. I would like to assure the hon. Member from Krishna that we are doing our very best to provide electricity and water for the purpose of agricultural development. We have had to pass through anxious days on account of the unprecedented and universal failure of the monsoon. The level of the water in Mettur was low, and although ryots in the Tanjore district were not entitled to the water beyond a certain level, still at the cost of electricity development

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" On a point of information, Sir, is there any provision in the order relating to the Mettur Project when it was formed that after some date, the ryots cannot claim the water in the Cauvery? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" An understanding there was, as I understood, that below a certain level, the water should be exclusively reserved for electricity development. I want my hon. friend to understand that but for this Mettur reservoir, they should not have been able to get this water and save their crops. We did want to save the crops, and even at the expense of electricity development, we gave as much water as was required to save the crops in the Tanjore district. In the same way, the Papanasam reservoir was exclusively designed and intended for hydro-electric development; but still, some 25,000 acres had to be saved and there was no rain and we therefore let in as much water as was wanted, and all the crops were saved without exception. Again, Sir, in the Periyar system, on account of the want of rains, water was inadequate; but by very careful regulation of the water, all the crops have been saved under Periyar in the Mathurai district also. Thus, we had to let in water to save crops from Papanasam and Mettur and power development has been affected. We have been obliged to introduce a cut, but this cut will not apply to agricultural requirements and certain other essential requirements. A cut of 35 per cent for certain industrial purposes we are obliged to effect from the 1st of March under the Mettur system. We are trying our best, Sir, to meet the situation in all these ways. From to-morrow, we propose to supply from the Madras Electricity system about 4,000 kwts. of power which we could spare during the nights after 10 o'clock without affecting the consumption in the City, and we have already connected the Madras Electricity system with the Mettur system, and it is all one grid now, and we propose to supply from Madras about 4,000 kwts. in the nights from to-morrow onwards, which should go some way to meet the situation.

The hon. Member from Visakhapatnam, Mr. Veerabhadra Rao, complained about the delay in the execution of the extension

[Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam] 9th March 1950]

to the power works. I could understand his feeling. It is no doubt true that people have been expecting the completion of this power house; but I can tell him and others that Government also have been expecting to complete this extension work much earlier than now. But we have to depend on certain countries for certain essential materials. Recently, when I was in Visakhapatnam, I was told that cast-iron pipes would be available in India itself, and then we were informed that it would take another eighteen months to get it. Then again we indented on the United Kingdom, and we were told it could be got in six months; but again we were later intimated that it would take two years to get it, and now we are improvising from some other generating centres, so that we need not wait for the arrival of the cast-iron pipe from foreign countries. The boilers have been set up and some other works have also been completed; but for want of certain other materials, there is delay; and in the meanwhile, in order to minimize the delay, we are installing two diesel engine generating sets in the Visakhapatnam Works, and we expect that it would be commissioned in another three months, when more power could be produced; and the whole scheme is expected to be completed within a year, Sir.

The hon. Mr. Veerabhadra Rao complained that certain cinemas were preferred to those who want power for their own domestic consumption. I have looked into the matter. A certain picture-house wanted power and Government specifically ordered that power could be given to that power-house only between 9 p.m. and 12 in the night when there would be no load, but subsequently it was brought to the notice of the authorities that the proprietors of that picture-house were seeking to contravene the restrictions imposed, and therefore, the matter is being looked into, and possibly if there is sufficient case, even this might be cancelled. But I can tell the House that all preference and priority are shown in the matter of domestic connexions in Visakhapatnam. When I was in Visakhapatnam, our officers pointed out to me the difficulty, how people who took power for domestic consumption for shops and certain other things, do not co-operate with the authorities, how they go beyond the restrictions, how they decorate their shops and consume more power; they also told me that they were again looking into the matter and seeing how they could enforce the restrictions, so that they could distribute the available power to more consumers.

" We are also taking over under the legislation recently passed by this House and the other House, and acquiring private electricity undertakings. We do propose to take over presently some of the concerns which are failing and some of the concerns which were referred to by the hon. Member from Visakhapatnam. We are doing our best in spite of the shortage of materials to give rural connexions for agricultural purposes. We are giving loans to certain sound private electricity undertakings for the exclusive purpose of rural connexions for agricultural purposes, insisting that those who take power under this scheme should grow only food-crops and no other crops. But the power we are able to generate is not adequate. Besides Visakhapatnam, the Vijayawada power

[Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam] [9th March 1950]

station is being strengthened and I can tell the House also that I have recently inspected the Machkund Hydro-Electric Works progress. I was there along with the Minister for Orissa who is also interested in the project, and that is going on according to schedule; we are also accelerating that scheme, and we also expect the first phase to be completed by 1952. We are also going on with the Moyar Extensions in the Nilgiris which should double the present generating capacity. Besides that, the hon. Member for Anantapur referred to the need for thermal stations. The Nandyal and Tadpatri thermal stations are being sanctioned and we are collecting the necessary materials. The first phase of the Nellore thermal scheme is also expected to be completed by the coming June and we hope to switch on by June. We are getting power for Tungabhadra, for Bellary district and also for Anantapur from Jog. There was some hurdle with regard to Bellary, but there was no hurdle about the rates. The power is ready; we have laid down the lines from Hospet to Bellary, but for want of some insulator, it was held up; but yesterday I was told by the Chief Engineer that intimation had after all been received of the arrival of the much-expected insulators and, therefore, we do expect to have power both at Adoni and at Bellary by the 1st of April next.

"Then I should like to make a few remarks about the position of the roads. The hon. Member from Tanjore, Mr. Natarajan, was unusually bitter against the Government. Pleading for the much-talked-about common man, he went to the extent of stating that the entire Motor Vehicles Tax might be abolished. But I would like to tell the House that we have provided and we are spending about Rs. 5 crores on the roads in this Province. The Government of India, in addition to this Rs. 5 crores, are spending about Rs. 50 lakhs on the national highways; but this is not adequate. Several members complained about the bad condition of roads, the need to improve all roads and for dustless surfacing of them. Hon. Members could see from the particulars about each district included in the Budget Memorandum, especially the book on the Civil Works, that we are doing something. But it is all so costly; the cost has gone up enormously. Dustless surfacing means not less than Rs. 75,000 per mile; everywhere there is demand for it, but it is costly. This Rs. 5½ crores which we are spending is not at all adequate even according to the enhanced motor vehicles taxation. The Hon. Finance Minister has stated in his speech that he expects Rs. 3 crores from the Motor Vehicles tax. Not only has the cost of maintenance and improvement of roads gone up thrice, but the traffic has increased by leaps and bounds. The roads are spoiled by the numerous cars, not only motor buses, but by different kinds of lorries that are plying on the roads, and it is not possible for the Government, in spite of the provision of Rs. 5½ crores, to keep the roads all through in good condition. That is the position, Sir. I do hope hon. Members will bear this in mind when they criticise the Motor Vehicles taxation. We have abolished the toll-gates; and tolls were a source of income which could be utilized for the improvements of roads. Even this Rs. 5½ crores is not at all adequate, as I said.

9th March 1950] [Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam]

"Lastly, Sir, the hon. Member the Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, pointed out the high cost of buildings constructed by the Public Works Department. That has been exercising my mind also. We appointed an expert committee to go into the question of cheapening the designs. The cost of materials has gone up 2½ times the pre-war cost. Not only that; the Public Works Department could not departmentally construct all these buildings. They have necessarily to seek the medium of contractors. When we call for tenders, there is not much competition among the contractors, and invariably the lowest tender quoted is much higher than the estimate. Anyhow, we have been examining this question; we appointed an expert committee to go into the question of revising the designs so as to cheapen the cost of buildings for the elementary schools and high schools and dispensaries and hospitals and all that. They have been able to give a design which should reduce the cost of elementary school buildings by about 33 and 1/3 per cent and the high school buildings by 25 per cent.

"Sir, we have appointed another Committee, consisting of the Surgeon-General, the Consulting Architect and certain other officers, to go into the question of evolving cheaper designs for medical buildings. It is true that the cost of constructing a medical college runs to crores of rupees and we are simply startled. I have been discussing the question with the Surgeon-General and with the authorities of the Public Works Department and we are again going into the question of revising the design for medical college buildings. In regard to this matter I would also like to seek the co-operation and appreciation of the University authorities and also of the Medical Council. I can assure the hon. Dr. Lakshminaswami Mudaliyar that we shall further look into the matter and see how the cost of the buildings could be reduced so as to be within the reach of this Government.

3-45
p.m.

"I do not like to take the time of the House any more except to thank you, Sir, for the opportunity given."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, comparatively very little has been said, or very little comments have been made about the subjects with which I am dealing, namely, Education and Law. In regard to Education, the only complaint that has been made was that the salary of the teachers is low and that it should be improved. Dr. John made a suggestion that we must continue to encourage more and more private enterprise in Education and that it is the only way in which we can solve the problem. Some other hon. Members said that adult franchise is coming and unless we begin to work immediately, how are we going to work it and all that. Of course, I realize the well-intentioned remarks which have been made. It is not because we do not know the problems but many things could not be done. I may point out that the Government contribution towards the pay of the elementary school teacher was only Rs. 12 a month previously and it has been increased to Rs. 25 a month since last year onwards. Of course, we do not feel that Rs. 25 on the Government side is sufficient or good and if the Government could contribute more than that it

[Sri K. Madhava Menon] [9th March 1950]

would be very much better. But the House must also know that even if we give one rupee more as increase to all the elementary school teachers, it would require more than 10 lakhs of rupees."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" Then how can they keep body and soul together? "

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" We can only make things easier by comparison. The teacher was finding it difficult to make body and soul together with Rs. 12 a month, but now we have increased it to Rs. 25 and he now gets Rs. 43. I do not say that is sufficient, but I am only saying this. If you want to make Rs. 25 into Rs. 30, the amount required for it will come to 75 lakhs of rupees. Hon. Members must also realize the number of elementary school teachers to whom it should be given. As I said it is not because we do not want it, but there are certain physical impossibilities. Unfortunately, we cannot make money; we cannot also mint money; it is the business of the Government of India to mint money; we have not got the Nasik Press to go on minting notes as we like. It is all very easy to say glibly, why do you squander money like Gopanna as Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu would put it."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" Will the Hon. Minister repeat the statement of the hon. Member, Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu, because I was not here when he said it."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu referred to the story of Bhadrachalam Gopanna which is very well-known in these parts and that is that the Minister of the Nizam had squandered all the money."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" Perhaps it is not original and he coined some words or other."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Last year it was Lingadu and this year it is Gopanna. As I said, Sir, hon. Members can glibly say, why do you have Prohibition and things like that. It is not a question of tainted money. Every one in this House is simply thinking of the common man and the poorer man and people who are hundred and thousands of miles away from the poor man only are exploiting the poor man in this House and though they have never seen anything about the poor man, yet they go on saying, you could have given it to the poor man if you had not squandered the money like Gopanna. If that is so, a major portion of the money, about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the excise revenue came only from the poorest of the poor toddy drinker and not from whisky or arrack drinkers. So, this excise revenue was only a tax on the poor man. Then why do you want to tax the poor man for the rich man's schools and roads and why do not you be kind enough to say, 'let the poor man drink free' because that will be showing your kindness for the poor."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Who pays the sales tax? "

9th March 1950]

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I know what the hon. Leader of the Opposition is attempting at. Clever lawyer as he is, he generally argues well though he does not have a junior to assist him here. In fact he feels the absence of a junior in this House also. So, Sir, if the kindness of hon. Members to the poor man is so much, they must let us give free toddy and say let anybody tap and drink as he likes. But, do not take that man's money and ask that that money should be spent on motor cars, colleges and things like that. It is all easy to say glibly, why do you squander, all in the name of poor man whose money you want. I cannot understand the logic of it. Of course, we are not against the idea of giving more to the teachers, and we are thinking of increasing our commitments."

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

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" If it does not come in the next year's Budget as one of those under consideration, something will be done in the course of this year. We are trying to do that. So, Sir, the main complaint against the Budget from the educational point of view is the pay of the teacher."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" It was stated in the last year's Budget that elementary education was held in abeyance."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The question of free and compulsory education was held in abeyance. I want that all of us should be a little bit realistic. It is not a difficult thing to issue an order that everywhere free and compulsory education should be introduced, and that the district boards should see that free and compulsory education is given. My hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition questioned the correctness of my figures regarding the number of children of school-going age, which according to our figures is a little over 7,000,000, but my hon. Friend calculated it with his knowledge of geometry and arithmetic and said that when the total population is this, how can it be true. But, I may tell him that there are more children below 5 than children above 5. This 7,000,000 represents children over 5 and below 12 and I do not think this estimate is wrong."

" Then, Sir, according to the figures, we have only about 33 lakhs out of this 70 lakhs of children in schools. I may also inform this House that in many of the existing schools where these children are taught, there is no sufficient space for them. Even in regard to the existing schools, my hon. Friend, Mr. Farookhi quoted something I said about the number that we required. Sir, in regard to private agencies, as I said somewhere else, there are high schools for instance even in the city which I had the misfortune to visit, where I found 600 or 700 boys in places where even 300 boys could not be accommodated though the Director of Public Instruction has been issuing orders that there should be so many square feet per child. If it comes within the rules of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, they would have prosecuted them but they do not include men and children."

[9th March 1950]

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" If you want to have it why not issue an order about compulsory education? "

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Yes, it can be done, but we have to consider the question of providing for space and the teachers that are necessary, etc. We have to plan and do it. Franchise and adult education are coming in 1951 and if we begin every possible thing as suggested by Mr. Farookhi even though all the 54 crores of revenue are poured in all the places, you cannot give education. But, we have to give the necessary space, the number of teachers and other necessary facilities for them and so there is no use merely talking of free and compulsory education. Free and compulsory education is certainly necessary and we have to do it but of course, consistent with our present finances and our conditions we have to provide for it as quickly as possible. Not simply go on saying, we will not be satisfied unless you issue and order that to-morrow onwards it will be done. It is no doubt easy to say that."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" It was said last year that it was held in abeyance.

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" There are areas in the Province where compulsory education is in force and the local bodies which are in charge of it are trying their best to get it through. That is all I have to say.

" Then, Sir, Dr. John said that this question should be left to interested private agencies and he also gave a curious meaning for the word ' Pallikoodam '. He said that ' Palli ' meant ' church ' and ' koodam ' meant ' school '. But in Malabar a school is called ' Ezhuthupalli ', that is, a place where people get learning. So, it is not in connexion with churches that ' palli ' came. That apart, Sir, we are giving every encouragement possible to private agencies. But on the other hand the clamour of the staff of the private agencies is, and please for Heaven's sake give us security of tenure and better pay, please take the schools away from the private agencies. That is the complaint. Again it is not the case of private agencies meeting the entire cost of education, but 2/3 of the net cost is being met by the Government. Not that I grudge it, but compared with the number and the amount we are giving it cannot be stated we are niggardly in giving grants to private agencies.

" Now, that my hon. Friend raised the question of missionary agencies, I should say, we are also grateful to the missionaries for what they have done towards education but that gratefulness should not be stretched to the breaking point. I admit we should be grateful to the missionaries for what they have done. We have been also receiving hundred of complaints even in these days of attempts at proselytism wounding religious feelings. In certain convent schools, non-christian children are not allowed to put
4 p.m. ' tilakam ' on their forehead. When a complaint was received and it was referred to the management they replied that an inquiry was made and it was found that there was no ground for complaint. What happens is, they make other pupils in the school make gibes

[9th March 1950] [Sri K. Madhava Menon]

and ridicule the children that come with ' tilakam ' and so when the child goes home and the parent asks it to put on the tilakam, the child requests the parent not to insist on having it. So, what I request is the managements should be liberal in these matters, and when complaints are received against private agencies in large numbers and enquired into it should not be understood that Government are not encouraging them."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" You may take it that I will be the first person not to tolerate any missionary agency, if it does it."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" Whoever may be responsible, no modern girl who goes to school, hon. Members would have observed has a tilakam or bangles." (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" So, Sir, private agencies have to think liberally in these days; and then, Government for their part would give them as much encouragement as possible. If only one looks at the figures, he would be convinced that they have been receiving increased help as years pass on.

" Then, Sir, Mr. Ranga Reddi said that the Cuddapah College should be raised into a first-grade college; and Mr. Bhima Rao wanted a second-grade college for Bellary. This reminds me of a Malayalam proverb which means, a person who has finished his food asks for a bed, while the man who has not got food asks for a leaf. Mr. Ranga Reddi himself has admitted that Government have given 2½ lakhs for the college and 2½ lakhs for the hostel. We have gone a step further also by providing B.Com. and Natural Science course in the Intermediate class, so that the boys may not be handicapped if they wish to go to medical college.

" Then the question was raised, why the Forest College was abolished. It is a wrong notion. It has not been abolished. Till now the Madras Government was running the Rangers College here. The Government of India undertook to run it and also to have the Officers College here. A portion of the Officers College is run at Dehra Dun. This year, they have not sufficient number of officers to run the Officers College here and so they said there would be no Officers College run in Coimbatore this year.

" Mrs. Clubwala made a very good speech and she was impartial in her attention to Ministers, for to everyone of them she referred for some reason or other. One complaint she made against the Education Department was that it was trying to lay much emphasis on citizenship and that was retarding the scouting and guiding course conducted by her association. Sir, I do not think it is a crime for the Education Department to lay emphasis on citizenship. If our citizenship course covers a portion of their scouts and guides course, let them do the remaining portion only in their course. In fact, they should thank their stars that we have done a portion of their work. If it is a handicap for their scouting course, then, that speaks much against their scouting course. A deputation waited on us some time back about this, and I told them"

[9th March 1950]

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—“ You have dropped certain principles in scouting and guide course and used them for the citizenship course; and so, by your citizenship course we are losing the strength in our class. You ask us to launch a movement and then you don't help us.”

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ Sir, I am still unable to understand the position. We are having citizenship class which includes scouting. The headmasters conference held recently passed a resolution urging the Government not to stop the citizenship class. So the complaint of Mrs. Clubwala is meaningless. My report is citizenship training is supporting scouting course. Because, it seems they were not getting teachers for teaching scouting before. And I think we have not reduced grant for scouting on that account, and they can take up some other work. Mrs. Clubwala spoke of the school of social service, and declared that by the time Government gave their reply, the person who promised them free accommodation to the school withdrew his offer. I do not think there was any delay with Government. The deputation waited on us on one day, and the very next day, as soon as the papers were received, we sent our reply.

“ She then said that people wanted that certified schools should be taken away from the control of jail. It has been done long ago. At present the Inspector-General of Prisons has nothing to do with certified schools. We have got a separate staff for them. I wish hon. Members of this House visit the certified schools themselves instead of listening to what somebody else is saying.”

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—“ Perhaps you might have received your information as Minister in charge of Jails.”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ No, I also happen to be Minister for Education; so it does not matter in what capacity I get my information.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Are they still under Home Department? ”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ Yes. Then it was said that immoral traffic is on the increase. I do not want to controvert expert opinion in this matter. Last time when I controverted the statement, Mrs. Clubwala said that it was a fact. It may be so. We are glad that the Vigilance Association is taking active interest in putting it down. I am also glad that that association has passed a resolution that they could not wait any longer till Government helped them with finance but that they had decided to raise money through their own effort. I heartily rejoice to hear their decision if Government's alleged inactivity would bring finance to them, and I am perfectly prepared to show a little more neglect, if need be.”

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—“ It has taken us all these years to finalize the scheme, and so we thought that it would be a waste of our time if we were to wait till Government helped with finance.”

9th March 1950]

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ We had been helping the Vigilance Association all along and we propose to do so also in the future. We took away Provincial Government servants lent to them, and if necessary, we are prepared to give them back.

“ Then, Sir, with regard to the maintenance of law and order there was a lot said about the repressive policy of the Government. Some Members asked, ‘ is it going to help you? Remember the days of repression by the British Government; did it help them; it recoiled on them; similarly it would recoil on you,’ Sir, these comparisons are very odious. In some places these comparisons are ridiculous. I am afraid most of the members did not really understand the significance of the word ‘ repression ’. If we are fighting for our freedom, which is our birthright, and if somebody resisted it by repression, then, I can understand members condemning that repressive policy. For, attainment of freedom is the ultimate object in that fight. But I do not think, murder, looting, arson are things which anybody is entitled to. If we have taken steps to stop them, whom Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu said should not be called Communists but brigands, is it right to call it repressive policy? As I said in the other House, it is wrong to call them Communists; they are in fact Thugs, bandits, decoits, Pindaris. Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu was perfectly right when he said that they should be shot at sight. Mrs. Hensman wants shooting in the air and failing, on legs. She said that Government should not kill. Sri Narayanaswami Naidu says ‘ they are outlaws; they should be shot at sight.’ So, Sir, to call any action taken against such people as repression, is a misuse of that term. Dr. Gurubatham rightly said ‘ let us not indulge in loose talk by saying that repression is not going to help you. Attempting to stop lawlessness is not repression.’ The hon. Member from Anantapur gave instances of lawless acts. In the other House I dealt with the steps that we have taken to put down these acts. I also dwelt on the troubles happening in the Hyderabad-border areas of Krishna and other districts, where for some time they had no Government at all. I also said about the difficulties of Government in putting down disorder due to factions prevailing in the villages there. So I do not think I need dwell on them here.

“ I have given instances also in the other House. The local factions only add to our difficulties. If any action is taken on one side, the people on the other side say, ‘ Here is excess committed by the Police.’ If we do not take any action, then people say, ‘ You have not taken sufficient action in the matter.’ So between these two we are as it were between the Devil and the deep sea. Therefore under these circumstances, what is required is a little more understanding, a little more sympathy towards the Government and a little more co-operation and help from the public. Otherwise the Government and the Police cannot do their duties properly and satisfactorily to the people.

“ Then Sir, one hon. Friend asked ‘ Is this Democracy that we are having in this Province? ’ Well Sir, I understand democracy as counting of heads and not breaking of heads. But if breaking of heads is going on in the name of democracy, then I ask, ‘ Is

4-15
p.m.

[Sri K. Madhava Menon] [9th March 1950]

it this kind of democracy you want? ' Sir, we want to stop this breaking of heads; and we want to maintain law and order. Therefore do not use the words democracy, repression and things of that kind. In our attempts to maintain law and order, we have necessarily to use force to put down lawlessness and disorder.

" Sir, the hon. Lady Member Mrs. Hensman referred to the Salem shooting incident. It was an unfortunate incident. And we have appointed a Committee consisting of men of experience and ability to enquire into the matter and to make a report. I understand that they have finished their work in that locality and are going to submit their report very soon. Therefore it would be very wrong on my part if I attempt to say anything about it at this juncture. It is only after the report of the Committee has been received that we can get at the full and true facts about the incident.

" Sir my hon. Friend Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu suggested that we should supply firearms to four or five people in every village to combat the Communist menace in the border. He said that that would be the best way to stop this Pindari marauders from making raids into the border villages. That may be so, Sir, but we have had some bitter experience of having done so before. We gave firearms to some people in a village and they made a present of them to the Communists and they got the greater advantage over us; so that we have to use a little bit of our discretion in this matter, and local information has to be ascertained, whether they will be properly used, and not presented to those who come to raid. But at the same time, we are comparatively liberal in giving firearms to people in those border areas. Instructions have been issued that where the authorities are satisfied that firearms would be used for self-protection, there they may liberally issue them. Therefore we shall certainly bear the suggestion of my hon. Friend Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu in mind and do whatever we can in that regard.

" Then Sir, I am also thankful to him for the advice he has given in regard to charge-sheeting persons who are concerned in a raid. Sir, when a raid takes place, a lot of people gather together and the police cannot know who is the real culprit and therefore they have to charge all the 50 or 60 people in the crowd. It is difficult for the police to find the particular man who is mainly responsible in such a great crowd. To bring a lot of people before a court and charging them would certainly involve a lot of time and trouble to the police as well as the parties concerned, till the case are finally disposed of. My hon. Friend Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu suggested that we must pick out only the most important of them for being charged. I shall certainly put this suggestion before the Inspector-General of Police and see what can be done in this matter to mitigate the unnecessary hardships caused to the people and at the same time to bring the real offender to book. But my own view is, that such a thing by itself would not be of any great help to prevent raids. Unless all the people of the locality join together and give a fight to the raiders when they come, any amount of police help will only be temporary and will not be of any avail.

9th March 1950] [Sri K. Madhava Menon]

" Sir, this is all I have to say by way of reply to the various points raised so far as law and order is concerned. But I must, however, point out that these things alone are not enough. Public opinion must assert itself and the public must feel that it is as much their duty to keep themselves within law as it is the duty of the Government to maintain law and order. Therefore, Sir, what we require is a little more sympathy, a little more understanding and a little more co-operation from this House as well as from the public outside in our efforts to maintain law and order. I once more appeal to hon. Members of the House who represent the public and who shape public opinion to extend their co-operation and support to the Government in their efforts to maintain law and order in the land."

* THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, I did not expect that I would be called upon to reply, as the time is short and as our Public Health Minister and our Finance Minister are to reply just now. But still I am glad to have had this opportunity of saying a few words by way of reply and I thank you, Sir, for having given me this opportunity to speak.

" Sir, in the first place, I may point out that even yesterday, my hon. Friend Dr. Gurubatham has replied to many of the criticisms that have been made on the floor of the House in regard to prohibition. Sir, I have been following the speeches and criticisms of hon. Members of the House very closely during these three days, but I must say that none of them have given any constructive suggestions in regard to how prohibition could be more effectively enforced. Every member has been saying that prohibition is a failure, that illicit distillation has become a cottage industry and that Government have not been able to put down illicit distillation and that prohibition officers are not taking enough interest and so on and so forth. Sir, it is quite possible that illicit distillation is going on in the villages, but I do not think that the picture is so bad as our friends have painted it to be. Even in the pre-prohibition days, there had been illicit distillation of arrack and illicit tapping of toddy. Even in those days, in spite of the fact that there were so many toddy and arrack shops side by side which were freely kept open to the public and which were run under the auspices of the State, yet illicit arrack and illicit toddy were also being supplied to the people. The same illicit distillers and illicit tappers are still there in the villages and they are probably continuing their old trade. But now because we are enforcing prohibition, probably a small percentage of the people in the villages might have been added to the existing criminals. But, to say that because of this we must give up prohibition and that we must revert to the old days when Government had been organizing the liquor and toddy trade and that we should get back the revenue which we have now lost by prohibition, etc., is something which I cannot understand, Sir. It was argued that only a few percentage of the total population are drinking and that being the case, why should the Government spend such a huge amount to enforce prohibition and why should they give up such a huge source of income. But it was conveniently forgotten that it was from these few per cent of the

[Sri N. Sanjeeva Reddi] [9th March 1950]

poorest of the people that we were getting the entire excise revenue, before. The hon. Leader of the Opposition said that women and children have also begun to drink and he quoted the observations of certain Congressmen in support of his statement. I do not think, Sir, that many women and children are drinking and because it came from the mouth of certain Congress members, it cannot be taken that they are the authorities in the matter. Certain people want to criticise the Government for the sake of criticism, but they do not base their criticisms on facts."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" It was the observation of an ex-Minister who was in charge of prohibition itself. It was Mr. Koti Reddi who made that observation, in the other House."

* THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Sir, my hon. Friend Dr. Gurubatham who was also a Minister in charge of Prohibition has said that the picture is not really so bad as others have depicted it to be. Sir, I know the conditions of the villages in the pre-prohibition days and I know the conditions now and I can say without any fear of contradiction that conditions in the villages are now much better than they were before, in spite of the illicit distillation that is going in in a few taluks here and there. I may also say that about 80 per cent of the ex-addicts have been benefited by prohibition and if you enquire into their families, and if you ask their wives and their womenfolk they will certainly vouchsafe to this fact, that they are much better off to-day than before, that they are really more happy and that their husbands who have been earning only 8 or 10 annas a day do not drink, because they cannot afford to buy illicit liquor which is very very costly. Perhaps, Sir, the richer people in the towns might try to get some illicit stuff, and for that too they have to spend a lot of money, but I know that poor man cannot afford to buy these illicit drinks and he certainly does not resort to it. But those who live in towns and who have never been to villages and who are ignorant about facts, speak all sorts of things, but if you really go into the villages and study how the ex-addicts are living, you will know that they are more contented and there is more peace and happiness in their family than before. The agitation against prohibition is mostly from our friends in the cities and from the richer class of people who were accustomed to drink before, but who are now suffering for want of drinks. It is they that are loud in their protests against the continuance of prohibition. I may assure them that under no circumstances will the present Government give up prohibition, but on the other hand we will try to enforce the Act more rigorously and take all possible steps to put an end to illicit distillation that is going on in the villages. Perhaps it may be very difficult, because these people are very experienced and very clever in that art, and they have been in existence even during the pre-prohibition days and therefore to wipe them out, is not a very easy matter, but we will not relax our efforts to eliminate them altogether as soon as possible. Sir, people who are opposed to prohibition are louder than people who propagate in favour of prohibition. For that purpose we have decided to appoint some propagandists and we are taking steps to educate

9th March 1950] [Sri N. Sanjeeva Reddi]

the people in the villages and to secure their co-operation and help to put down illicit distillation and make prohibition a success."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Why do the Government allow soldiers to drink? "

* THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" It is entirely a different thing, Sir, which is not in our hands. It is entirely a matter for the Government of India. I would indeed be very very glad, if the Government of India would take steps to stop it even among the members of the armed forces.

" Sir, some hon. Friends suggested that we should supply arms to our prohibition officers and staff for self-protection whenever they go to villages for detecting cases of illicit distillation. I fully appreciate that suggestion. But I am sorry we have not got enough arms and rifles to equip them fully and unfortunately most of our prohibition officers are not trained in the use of fire-arms. If only our men are trained in the use of fire-arms, just like policemen, then we could possibly supply them with rifles and guns. We have trained a few of them, but as I said, we have not got enough guns and rifles to equip the entire prohibition staff. I understand that even our police are not properly equipped and that they have not got the necessary rifles and guns. Such being the case, I think it will take some years before we can think of such a scheme, and so until then we shall have to get on with our present equipment and with our present untrained staff. Meanwhile, Sir, we have decided to entrust the enforcement work to the Police department in certain select districts and we have issued orders accordingly; and now in four districts, the enforcement of prohibition is in charge of the Police department. But to-day as matters stand, the police have got a lot of work to do and they are already over-worked and so they cannot take up this work also at the same time. It is only for that reason that we have entrusted the work to the police in four districts only and in those four districts, there will not be any separate prohibition station for trying prohibition offences, but they will be tried in regular police stations."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Some of the policemen also drink."

* THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" It is quite possible, Sir, that some of them might drink. But on that score you cannot generalize and say that all policemen are drunkards. There are some people in society who are sinners, but we cannot say on that score that all the people in society are sinners. I am perfectly aware that some of our policemen are bad, because they have all along been in the midst of the drink evil and if they are suddenly switched over to this work, they may find it difficult to adopt themselves in the beginning, but I am sure that many of them have been reformed to-day and many of them have been doing their jobs honestly and satisfactorily. I may assure Dr. John that at least 90 per cent of them are not drunkards and have been reformed and if 10 per cent of them are still bad, and if hon. Friends help me with constructive suggestions and give facts and figures, I shall verify them and take suitable action upon them. It is no use making a

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1950-51

[Sri N. Sanjeeva Reddi] [9th March 1950]

sweeping remark that all of them are bad or that all of them are unfit to enforce prohibition. As I said, if any specific instances are brought to our notice, we shall certainly enquire into them and take suitable action in the matter.

"Sir, regarding ex-toddy tappers, we have been doing as much as possible to help them to find alternative employment. We have started many jaggery co-operative societies and mat-weaving and other societies to give them employment on the ameliorative side of our activities. Up till now nearly 1,30,000 people have been provided with employment and we are trying to put some of them on road works also if possible. But I am sorry to say that most of them are not trained in any other walk of life and they are not also capable of easily adopting themselves to any other job. We are really taking all care and are doing our best to find suitable jobs for them. If only our friends would suggest remedies for the various defects pointed out by them, in the working of prohibition, we shall certainly be glad to welcome them and give effect to them as far as practicable. As I said, there is no use merely criticising that because illicit tapping and illicit distillation has become a cottage industry, we should give up prohibition. That is not the way to get over the problem. They must suggest how best we could act in order to overcome these defects and difficulties and if they make practical and feasible suggestions, the Government will certainly welcome them."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Why not dilute the drinks and supply them?"

* THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—"Sir, we are not going to give up prohibition at any cost. If we have any idea to give up prohibition, I would have accepted the suggestion of my hon. Friend immediately. It is not at all our intention to modify the prohibition laws nor, as my hon. Friend behind me put it, is it our desire to adulterate prohibition. We appointed a Committee to enquire into the working of prohibition some two years ago and they have made certain recommendations, and they are under our consideration. As hon. Members pointed out, if prohibition is to be successful, we must have the full co-operation of the public and that is why we appeal to the co-operation of the members of this House and of the public to make this a success. If it is not a cent-per-cent success to-day, I am sure that at least in the course of another decade, prohibition will be a complete success, because by then many of the people who were ex-addicts would be no more and many others would have changed their habits and the new generation would not drink at all. But as a matter of fact, it is not very difficult for them to get out of the evil and that is why we are not having a cent-per-cent success."

4-30 P.M. "It is a very difficult thing for them to give up drink. They have been drinking all their lives. If we ban tincture they go in for Eau de Cologne and if we ban Eau de Cologne they go in for petrol. There are any number of substitutes which cannot be called drinks, but which are regular poisons. These are not only ruining them but actually cost their lives. Since these addicts have been

9th March 1950] [Sri N. Sanjeeva Reddi]

drinking for so many decades, it is very difficult for them to give up drink. In course of time Prohibition will certainly become a success. I do appeal to all hon. Members to extend their complete co-operation to Government in making Prohibition a complete success. Any scheme will be a success only if there is active co-operation from the public. Unless all hon. Members assure me of this co-operation, it will not be a complete success. I crave all hon. Members to give me—or anybody who may take up this portfolio—their fullest co-operation to make Prohibition a great success. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to speak."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Sir, it is rather late in the day for me to talk on the budget, because the Finance Minister has got to reply practically to all the issues that have been raised by hon. Members. But I want to reply to one point regarding Prohibition, about which I have already spoken on the resolution thanking His Excellency the Governor on his address to both Houses of the Legislature. Sir, to me and to every sane person, Prohibition is a public health measure. As Minister in charge of public health, I want to tell the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that Prohibition is a public health measure. Ten years ago when I was in charge of public health, I had occasion to investigate the effect of Prohibition on addicts in Cuddapah and other districts. I have still records with me wherein, for every question that was raised regarding the general health of the addicts, the universal reply was that their health has been improved. We asked about the effect on their digestive system. The answer was that they were able to eat better and they enjoyed life better. They slept well at nights. What was the influence of Prohibition on the longevity of their lives? This question was specifically raised, and the Director of Public Health has given me answers. From the answers on record, I have absolutely no hesitation in saying to my hon. Friend Dr. John that this Prohibition is a downright public health measure, and we are not sorry that we have adopted it. One more word about dilution of alcohol in drink. I may tell Dr. John that the Government were doing this before Prohibition was introduced. We were running arrack shops then, and as people who are interested in getting revenue, we were very keen upon giving a certain percentage of alcohol in all the drinks that were supplied in the shops under Government control. 29 W.P. is the percentage in all big drums of arrack which were issued to the people under Government control. It simply means that it is guaranteed that 29 per cent of alcohol is there. The percentage of alcohol was carefully regulated so that the men who drink may be sure of the proper quantity of alcohol in the drink. This was being done during the pre-Prohibition days. There is nothing new about dilution. We have been doing this for many years. Now we have decided that it must be given up in the interests of public health. The result of investigations has shown, without any doubt whatsoever, that this is a measure which we have adopted rightly and well."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Leading from bad to worse!"

[9th March 1950]

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ I just want to refer to the suggestions of the hon. Member Mr. Suryanarayana Rao with regard to rural water-supply schemes. He suggested that a fund somewhat like the Harijan Welfare Fund should be created for the rural water-supply schemes. I want to tell him that a fund has already been created from which whenever we run short and we go into a deficit we can take money. In that way we have been able to get along with the water-supply fund. In fact we thought that with some money in addition to the sum set apart for the year we could get the necessary materials in advance for the supply of pipes, etc., for water-supply.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ My complaint is that no contribution is made this year to that fund.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ I am coming to that. I am telling that we have been doing it. A sum of Rs. 31,68,800 was provided in the budget estimate for 1949-50 for expenditure on rural water-supply schemes. But it is expected that the expenditure during the year will exceed this provision. The anticipated expenditure during the year is Rs. 47,11,128. A sum of Rs. 37,52,900 has been provided in the budget estimate for 1950-51 for expenditure on rural water-supply schemes during the next year. A special fund of Rs. 1 crore was created towards the end of 1947 with a view to avoid slackening of the programme for provision of water-supply in rural areas for lack of funds. Under the present arrangements, the Government make an allotment of Rs. 15 lakhs every year for the rural water-supply schemes. When the expenditure exceeds this allotment, the additional amount required is found by transfer of funds from this Rs. 1 crore fund. The anticipated balance in the fund at the end of 1949-50 is Rs. 37.15 lakhs. At the present rate of expenditure, the anticipated balance at the end of 1950-51 will be about 10 lakhs. The Rs. 1 crore fund will therefore have to be replenished in 1951-52. After the creation of the special fund, the Government have been able to make steady progress in the matter of providing water-supply in rural areas. There is nothing novel about the suggestions made by the hon. Member Mr. Suryanarayana Rao.

“ The hon. Member Mr. K. Natarajan, referred to the drainage and water-supply schemes of Tanjore. The Government have decided that municipal water-supply and drainage schemes should be taken up in accordance with the priority list drawn up by the water-supply and Drainage Committee. Tanjore is assigned the 12th place in the list of existing municipal water-supply schemes to be improved in the southern circle drawn up by the committee. The drainage scheme for Tanjore is assigned the 7th place in the list of municipal drainage schemes to be newly provided in the southern circle. The water-supply scheme and the drainage scheme for the municipality will be taken up in the turn assigned to Tanjore in the priority list.”

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Sir, for full four days the Council was in possession of the Budget. As many as

[9th March 1950] [Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

twenty-seven speakers have taken part this time as against twenty-five last year. In the other House sixty-two members have spoken on the budget, making a total of eighty-nine members in both the Houses. For full eight days hon. Members here and in the other House have been very critical about the proposals made in the budget and they have made also, in spite of themselves, some constructive criticisms. They did not want to make them perhaps (laughter), yet, in spite of themselves, as I said, they have made some constructive criticisms. (Dr. V. K. John : ‘ Why attribute all this charitable motive, Sir ’.) I am really thankful to the hon. Members for the interest they have evinced on this budget. I know it has been a colourless budget, and it has been described as a standstill budget, and I shall come to these criticisms a little later. Sir, as I said some time ago on the first occasion when I was replying to the budget debate, the budget represented the decisions of the Government while speeches of hon. Members represented the requirements of the State. So, between decisions and requirements and the ways and means for meeting all these requirements and between performance and ideals, there must necessarily be some gap, and that gap has to be bridged slowly and steadily. We know the requirements of the people. We know the pitiable condition of our villagers. For centuries and decades they have been neglected, and it is up to any popular Government that is in office to fully visualize the conditions in which they are situated and chalk out policies and programmes to alleviate their condition. That is exactly the purpose of a State. The State has to progress consistently with the financial position in which it is placed, and then it has to tackle the problem of poverty and disease of the people. Whenever I have told the House that I have walked a mile, hon. Members have told me ‘ You have yet to walk 99 miles, and the ultimate goal is to walk 99 miles more ’. It is true that I am walking slowly in spite of various difficulties and in spite of the mile stone tied to my neck. In spite of all this some little progress has been made. It is easy for hon. Members to say that the goal is 99 miles, and ask me ‘ are you going to reach the goal at this rate ’. What has been done, has been done at great cost and with very great perseverance. What has not been done has been depicted very admirably by hon. Members. But it has to be done slowly and steadily. It cannot be done by words or by speeches. It has to be done by money, by hard work and with the co-operation of everybody. Speaking on an occasion like this, we will have to see whether there is the necessary finance to undertake all the schemes whether we are likely to reach the goal, and whether we can reach the goal within a reasonable time or whether it is going to be unreasonably a long period. These are all considerations which we have to take into account while speaking on the budget. There is nothing unusual in hon. Members being critical. I think any budget in any State parliament must perhaps receive the same type of criticism from hon. Members opposite and also from the party members. Because in every State even in countries like the United States or the United Kingdom things are there which have got to be done, be it the food problem or the housing problem. There are very many things to be done. The requirements

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi] [9th March 1950]

of the people are so numerous that any budget that is presented by any Finance Minister must be received in the same manner everywhere. Whether the budget presented is a deficit one or not, whether the budget contains taxation proposals or not, or whether the budget contains any additional taxation measures or not, the speeches are the same and the criticisms are the same. After all, I do not attribute any motives to hon. Members. The requirements of the constituencies are so varied and numerous that hon. Members have a right to speak in the strain they did. I do not think hon. Members have been ungenerous to me. Some of them perhaps wanted to be furious at the proposals, but in spite of them they could not be furious. And I think on the whole, analysing as I do the various speeches and the various tones in which they were uttered, I can say that people are glad that it is not a deficit budget and there is no taxation proposal in it.

4-45
p.m.

“ Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, speaking two years ago, said that generally a deficit budget had got the sympathy of the public. I do not know whether he remembers the speech. Last night I was reading some of the old speeches and I found this very pregnant sentence that generally a deficit budget evoked the sympathy of the people. If it is true, it is very easy for me to present a deficit budget. After all, I have got my blue-prints and plans. I can open up new schools, hospitals, and show a deficit to whatever extent you like, and thus evoke the sympathy of the public. But, I do not know whether that sort of public sympathy will be of any use. After all, a deficit is a deficit which has to be met and we have to find the necessary money, if not in the current year, next year to recover from the deficit position. But this year we were definitely asked by the Government of India because of their international commitments, because they are also borrowing from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, etc., that generally the Government of India and also the State Governments must produce deficit budgets and thus create a favourable atmosphere internationally and also in the local markets so that if the Government of India or the Provincial Government went in for any loans, this year, they might be well received by the investing public.”

MR. CHAIRMAN :—“ The Hon. Minister means ‘ must not produce deficit budgets ’ ? ”

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

MR. CHAIRMAN :—“ The Hon. Minister omitted that word ‘ not ’.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ I am sorry, Sir. They definitely asked us to present at least non-deficit budgets. So, we framed our proposals with this definite principle that there should not be any deficit. Also in view of my very sad experience last year and the way in which my taxation proposals were received by the Members and the Press, I thought this year we would not have any taxation proposals. So, no taxation and no deficit are

9th March 1950] [Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

the two cardinal principles on which this budget is based. If it has not received the public sympathy, then I am only sorry. Because it is not a deficit-budget, it has not evoked the public sympathy. But generally Members are happy that there is no taxation. Some Members have also complained, severely complained, that ‘ you have not given any taxation relief just as the Government of India Finance Minister has given some taxation relief ’. I do not know what the proportion of that relief is when compared to their budget. They have a budget of nearly 300 crores and the taxation relief is about 8 or 9 crores. So, the relief is not much except to certain classes of people. If I am asked to give any taxation relief, it means that my receipts must be low and again that means that my spending capacity must be low. To analyse all the eighty-nine speeches, they want the Government to spend more in one direction or the other, whether it is education, law and order, public health, rural communication, irrigation or electricity. They are pressing upon the Government invariably to spend more and provide more amenities for the people. They say that the people are groaning under misery and poverty and by spending more money I can alleviate their distress. That is the demand of the public and of the Members. At the same time, they say that there is no relief which means I must have lesser earning capacity and it has necessarily a repercussion on my spending capacity. Situated as we are with these stupendous problems facing us, it is but right that we earn more and spend more. If we have the goal, say, in the next five years or ten years, we have got an earning capacity of a hundred crores of rupees and if we can spend that hundred crores of rupees on the peoples’ amenities, then certainly it will be an achievement for any State Government. But if I become generous, philanthropically-minded and whenever a petitioner comes and asks for some relief, say the mercantile community or some motor vehicle operator or somebody else comes with a petition and says ‘ Sir, your taxation is very high; I want some relief ’, then if I become generous-hearted, or may I call it chicken-hearted, my earning capacity will go and the requirements of the State will not be met for a very very long time to come. Therefore, necessarily with a little steel-heartedness, if I may say so, one has to husband the financial resources of the State and try to spend them for the benefit of the people. This appeal for taxation relief does not appeal to me at all. May be here and there some relief is needed and it may be given. I do not say that once a taxation is imposed, it should never be repealed. I am not of that view. But generally we must increase our earning capacity for the State so that we may be in a better position to spend more on the amenities.

“ Sir, besides that unfortunately for the State Government, we have been beset with certain difficulties, difficulties over which we have no control and which we could not avoid. I mean the seasonal difficulties, the constitutional difficulties and the financial difficulties. I do not know whether any State Government was confronted with this natural phenomenon that for three years

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi] [9th March 1950]

successively there was a failure of monsoons in most of the districts. It is a fact that only in December 1946 we had a failure of rains. The monsoon failed us in 1947, 1948 and again in 1949. The successive failure of the monsoon thrice is a potential factor in determining the budget of any State Government. It has its repercussions. Every inch of rain perhaps will remove my deficit or increase my opulence. Every inch of failure of rains will increase my difficulties. Failure of rains whether in Tanjore, Tiruchirappalli or somewhere else would mean lakhs of rupees to the State Government. Yet we have been denied that privilege of having normal rains, plentiful rains, and it has increased our difficulties. We had the unfortunate cyclone also which affected the surplus districts and Government had to spend nearly 24 lakhs of rupees on relief works. For remission in the drought districts, the southern districts, we had to provide 70 lakhs of rupees in the current year's budget. So, 70 lakhs and 24 lakhs make nearly a crore of rupees. Had the seasonal conditions been normal and favourable, we would have been spared this crore of rupees for something for which the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition pleaded very vehemently. It would have been available for something whether it was medical works, education or anything else. But, whether it was due to the stars or planets, I do not know, we had to incur the expenditure of 94 lakhs of rupees on either cyclone or famine conditions in the State.

"Then, we had the constitutional difficulties. The Leader of the Opposition has spoken at length to-day and he was in great calm. He made a long speech for 110 minutes. He was in splendid calm and I think of all his speeches I heard he made the grandest speech to-day."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—"It is all a new step."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"He took great pains to go through the budget and figures though of course occasionally misquoted figures (Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao : 'Often!') because he had not the assistance of his juniors. Yet, I must confess that he did make a really good speech to-day and in spite of his unwillingness to compliment me, I am here to unhesitatingly congratulate him on his splendid performance this morning. He has asked 'What is it that you have done for the common man?'. The common man has been his theme from 1948 up to this year and, as our Party Chief Whip has said, this common man has been the *kamadhenu* of the Opposition. They have been trying to utilize it and exploit it to the maximum extent and the common man's problems had grown last year. They are all responsibilities of the State Government. His needs are few and far between but all those things must be met by the State Government. Elementary education, rural communication, public health, medical relief, all these things are State responsibilities and they continue to be so even after the advent of the new Constitution. While the responsibilities remained the same and the enormity of the problem remained the same, the

[9th March 1950] [Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

new Constitution, the Republican Constitution had not given any additional financial powers to the State Governments. Nay, some of them have been taken away, some of the powers which we had under the much protested and much unwanted Government of India Act have been removed in the Republican Constitution. I have nothing to say against the Republican Constitution; it has been framed by our Leaders and we must certainly work it in the spirit in which it was designed for the welfare of the people and our thanks are due to the labours of all our Leaders. But yet we must face facts as they are. It is not in a spirit of complaint that I am saying this but I am trying to analyse what has been done. While all the responsibilities, as I said, of the poor man are still retained by the State, some of the financial powers have been taken away. I was not allowed to proceed with my taxation on advertisements in newspapers. Also I am asked not to levy the sales tax on newspapers though, under another Article of the Constitution, I am allowed to continue it for the time being. Whether it is desirable to continue to levy the sales tax on newspapers or not is another question and we have been seriously thinking about it, now that they have expressed an opinion, why not give it up even before they direct me to remove that sales tax on newspapers. Again, sales tax also has been tampered with. Under Article 286 (1) already certain things cannot be taxed after the 26th January 1950. Under sub-clause (2) I am allowed to continue to levy sales tax till the 31st March 1951 and thereafter I have no powers to continue to collect sales tax. Under sub-clause (3), if the Dominion Parliament then prepares a list of commodities essential to the life of the community then perhaps—I do not know the legal position exactly—the State Governments will not be allowed to levy sales tax. If to-morrow they declare foodgrains or cotton or motor spirit as essential commodities, then no State Government shall have the power to levy sales tax on them. So, that is the constitutional position and it has not added to our financial strength and as I said and as I tried to explain, certain of my powers have been curtailed in that direction.

"Then, there is the financial difficulty. There is the Deshmukh Award, which has reduced my quota of income-tax by half a per cent which, if translated into rupees, may mean about 20 lakhs this year and about 30 lakhs of rupees next year. Government of India are expecting larger receipts under income-tax in spite of the small relief they have given. Had my quota remained intact, I would have got about 30 lakhs of rupees more, for this half a per cent means not less than 30 lakhs of rupees.

"The Government of India immediately after the War—5 p.m. perhaps even before the formation of popular Governments—asked the State Governments to prepare the post-war development schemes. They themselves prepared development schemes for the various departments and asked the State Governments to prepare elaborate schemes with regard to education, rural communications, medical institutions, etc. Originally, our Government prepared a scheme for Rs. 120 crores. The original promise was that the entire amount on the approved schemes will be borne by the

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi] [9th March 1950]

Government of India. That was the original decision which the Government of India took sometime in 1945 or 1946. They said, 'All post-war development schemes should be submitted to us. We will go through them and when we are convinced that they are essential schemes, we will certainly finance the schemes entirely from our funds'. Later on, after a little introspection, or perhaps after a little reviewing, they said, 'We shall bear 50 per cent of your expenditure on post-war schemes'. Then we had to cut our post-war schemes from Rs. 120 crores to Rs. 80 crores, and were thinking how best to get the money from our Revenue Reserve Fund or some other surpluses we have, to be used along with the grant that we will be getting from the Government of India. But this year again, there was another decision of the Government of India. They have said, 'In view of the financial stringency in which we find ourselves and in view of the defence expenditure on Kashmir and in view of our commitments on food bonuses and food subsidies, we are not able to give you anything towards the prosecution of your post-war development schemes'. Now, we have started some of these schemes. We are in the mid-stream as it were and the Government of India now turns round and says, 'From 1950-51, don't expect even a single pie from us towards your post-war development schemes'. This year, we have an all-told credit from the Government of India in the shape of various grants to the tune of Rs. 5 crores. This 5 crores is made up of 2.5 crores for post-war development schemes, about 2 crores for procurement bonuses which they have been kindly giving us and another 5 crores or 50 lakhs for other Grow More Food schemes. All-told, we had a credit of Rs. 5 crores in 1949-50. As against that in 1950-51, we have a credit of Rs. 2 crores and I think they will continue the procurement bonus of 8 annas per maund. Thus there is a drop of Rs. 3 crores in the budget estimate of 1950-51. Sir, we are deprived of this Rs. 3 crores. Next year we will get Rs. 2 crores and the procurement bonus and I don't know how long they will continue that either. It is really not very desirable for the State Government to be depending upon the Central Government for this or that scheme. The State Government must find their own resources to undertake their schemes. I am looking forward for the day when no State Government will depend on the Central Government for any subsidy or any grant from them. After all, the State Governments should not be in the form of Municipal Councils or District Boards depending upon the doles given from above."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"What about the revenue collected by the Central Government?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"They have their own definite sources of revenue, like the customs, postal, central excise, income-tax, etc., and we have our own definite allocations. So, there must be water-tight compartments between these two allocations. They must have their own responsibility and the State Governments must have their own responsibility and nobody should encroach upon each other. The State Government should

9th March 1950] [Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

not ordinarily look forward for any help from above. It may be for a special thing like the building up of the Capital of Orissa, the Centre may give something. Or, if it is a big Project, like the Ramapadasagar, they may themselves take it over and in the course of a long number of years, they may adjust it with the State Government. Ordinarily, for a Leprosy clinic here or a Medical or Engineering College there, we should not look forward to any grant from the Government of India. It may be very distasteful to me that there has been a drop of Rs. 3 crores from this year. But I do feel that ultimately, it will put the State Governments to their own sense of responsibility with regard to their expenditure and therefore I do not grudge this drop of Rs. 3 crores."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Could we not ask the Centre to take over some of our departments?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"After all, the Constitution Act is there. They have certain responsibilities of their own. The State Governments have their own responsibility. For example, they have taken the responsibility of the defence of India. I don't think they will take any of our responsibility. Therefore, these are my difficulties—seasonal, constitutional and financial, that have added to my burdens. All criticisms must be viewed from these difficulties. We do not want to tax deliberately for political reasons. We were asked not to have any deficit budgets. These are the difficulties with which I was confronted. In the light of these difficulties the budget proposals must be viewed."

"As I said in the beginning, any State must have enough strength to collect more; by strength I mean constitutional strength to get more money so that they can spend more on the people. That will alone satisfy the community. Therefore, if not for anything else at least for the arduous circumstances in which I was placed, I must be congratulated. In the last four or five years the revenues of the State Government have gone up not merely because we have imposed certain new taxes. It may be one of the contributory causes. There are other reasons also for this increase. It may be due to our tightening up some of our Departments; it may be due to our having rendered some services like Electricity which in turn might have brought more revenues; it may also be on account of our getting what is due to us statutorily from the Government of India by way of our share in the income-tax and the like. Whatever it is, under these four heads, we have increased our revenues within the last four or five years. That means to that extent we have increased our expenditure and I think at least for that the Leader of the Opposition will compliment us. I will now give some figures. Though I do not want to take into consideration the excise revenue, I may give figures relating to it. Excise revenue which was Rs. 16.80 crores in 1945-46 has come down to Rs. 40 lakhs in 1949-50. Taking away the excise revenue, I am giving below figures relating to other revenue for the last five years."

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

[9th March 1950]

Year.	Revenue.
	RS.
1945-46	31,19,00,000
1946-47	37,30,00,000
1947-48	40,02,00,000
1948-49	49,61,00,000
1949-50	56,45,00,000

So, within the course of the last five years, the State revenues have gone up. Even after removing the excise revenue, it has risen up from Rs. 31 crores to 56 crores. That means the revenue has increased by over 25 crores. Of course, I know the taunt which the Leader of the Opposition can hurl at me and say, to that extent the Government had fleeced the people by additional taxation. As I said additional taxation might have been one of the contributory causes. It may be due to the tightening up of the departments, it may be due to services rendered and it may be due to our getting from the Centre statutory grants. Whatever it is, we have increased our revenues by 25 crores, i.e., from Rs. 31.19 crores we have raised it to Rs. 56.45 crores. Of course, this is not a small jump. In spite of total Prohibition—of course hon. Members might have their own views about it and its utility—yet in spite of total Prohibition for the whole Province, we have raised our revenues. Sir, it cannot be said that all this has been wasted. I can presently give figures to show that our nation-building activities have gone up in the course of these five years. In the budget memorandum you will find this under various heads, viz., Education, Medical, Public Health, Irrigation Works, Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-operation and Industries. The following are the figures relating to the progress of nation-building activities in the various departments which I have just mentioned:—

Year.	Expenditure.
	RS.
1944-45	8,10,29,000
1945-46	9,92,74,000
1946-47	13,23,06,000
1947-48	16,91,27,000
1948-49	19,90,41,000
Revised estimate for 1949-50	24,49,96,000
Budget estimate for 1950-51	26,10,81,000

So, from 8 crores and 10 lakhs we have come to 26 crores and 10 lakhs within the course of five or six years on some of our nation-building departments. To-day, our Education budget alone exceeds Rs. 8 crores. Sir, the Leader of the Opposition was very eloquent this morning when he said, 'I know you have spent money. What is the use of telling me that you have spent hundreds of crores of money and you have started new colleges and all that? What is the use of all that? How can you give figures to show that all these have improved the conditions in which the people

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

of this Province are living? That is the information which he wanted. Certainly that information could be given to him in any detailed budget discussion. I don't think that the hon. Leader of the Opposition means to suggest for a moment that all this increase on these nation-building activities has been a waste and has not been conducive to the welfare of the people, the whole thing has gone to waste, and it is only a sort of bloated budget and bloated demands on the various departments. If he earnestly suggests like that, then perhaps we will have to think twice, thrice and even a hundred times before we can increase our expenditure any more on these departments. We have to put the clock back and tell the departments, 'well the hon. Members of the Legislature say that in spite of the fact that we are spending more money on the nation-building activities, there has not been any progress in the welfare of the people and therefore we need not spend more money on the departments and we need not collect more money from the people to be spent back on them for their welfare. Because people here feel that there has not been any corresponding utility. Therefore cut short all your expenditure.' I do not think the Leader of the Opposition suggests that course to be adopted. Perhaps he feels that Rs. 16 crores is not enough and much more should be spent. He might feel that the problem is so enormous and so deep-rooted that we cannot solve it with Rs. 16 crores and we must perhaps spend Rs. 50 crores more in order that our schemes might be conducive to the welfare of the people. Certainly, if he can allow me to get Rs. 50 crores from the people, I will be glad to spend that amount on the people, and solve the problem effectively. Therefore, there is no use of asking for taxation relief and at the same time say that the Kamadhenu is a blood-sucking leech. It may be a blood-sucking leech for some. But it is a Kamadhenu for me. This has been so designed that each man paid according to his capacity. Without getting taxes from the people, how are we to replenish the loss due to Prohibition or some such thing, and at the same time spend for people's amelioration? It is, therefore, no use saying that the sales-tax is a blood-sucking leech. It may be a leech. But it has been a very useful leech and I consider that it should be preserved so that it may yield more revenue to the Government, which can be spent for the welfare of the people. Sales-tax is the only tax which is available with the Government to-day. We have seen in Punjab and the United Province how land revenue was enhanced in recent times. The budget session of the Punjab Legislature had to be postponed as they could not come to a final decision with regard to the enhancement of the land revenue.

“What was the position during the lean days, during the days of depression in 1931? Land revenue was stationary, water tax was stationary and so also several other taxes. But, since then, as I have shown in my figures, these revenues have been decreasing because of the unsettled seasonal conditions. To-day land revenue stands somewhere at 7 crores. Then, what about Excise? Excise revenue has suddenly evaporated. So, Sir, unless we preserve this sales-tax, the State Government cannot get on. We

478 GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1950-51

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi] [9th March 1950]

must congratulate ourselves on the fact that we were the pilots in the sales-tax field and we are getting the highest revenue from sales-tax. Even the Pakistan Government and the Governments of Mysore, Travancore and Hyderabad have sent their officers to this State to study our administration of the sales-tax. They have visited several districts to see how the tax is being administered. Perhaps they are trying to copy our system of administration. Sir, the Leader of the Opposition said that the tax was falling on the poor man. After all the requirements of the poor man and his buying capacity are limited and he is required to pay sales-tax only to the extent he makes purchases. But the rich man, the capitalist and the industrialist, whenever they go out for making purchases, buy more and costlier things than the poor man. Suppose he purchases a Rolls Royce car; then he must necessarily pay sales-tax in proportion to the amount involved in the transaction. Each man pays it according to his capacity. The poor man cannot go on purchasing things when the means to have them are little or nil for him. As I have said, his requirements are very few. He buys his rice, his dhall and his salt for his sustenance and nothing more, unlike the rich whose requirements are large and varied. So, Sir, it is a very equitable tax and there is nothing wrong in having it. It will be certainly our mainstay and we will have to preserve it with all the strength we possess.

"Sir, one of the hon. Members in this House said that it was not merely the revenue expenditure that mattered in these days but it was the capital expenditure also that was equally important. I know that capital expenditure creates assets and enables production to be stepped up. It also yields a very good return in cases like electricity. I may state in this connexion that even with regard to capital expenditure, we have not been slow. I have given figures in my budget speech which show our capital expenditure has been on the increase since we took over. In 1945-46, it was one crore of rupees, in 1946-47 it was two crores, in 1947-48, six crores and in 1948-49, eight and a half crores. In the last year, 1950-51, our expenditure was 12 crores and for the year 1950-51, we have budgeted for 15.5 crores much of which is to be spent on electricity and irrigation and perhaps also on the construction of big buildings. We have been giving a drive through the Public Works Department to see that more and more money is spent on our irrigation and electricity projects. So, judging from the revenue and capital accounts, we have done fairly well. In the last five years, we have increased our revenues to the extent of nearly 25 crores, and this money we have spent on capital works. If this expenditure has not produced results as is alleged by hon. Members, I must point out that they are not visible results and will take a long time to make themselves felt. For instance, if a college is opened in a particular place, it will not help the material prosperity of the place at once. It must turn out good and efficient men which will naturally take some time. Therefore, a long-range view must be taken of things. If an irrigation or electricity project is embarked upon, or for the

9th March 1950] [Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

matter of that, if a school or a college or a medical institution is started, the results should be judged not from a narrow or local point of view. We have spent more and earned more . . ."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—"What about food-grains? Why are they in short supply?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I have explained matters already. Then there comes the question of retrenchment. I was asking a friend—a Member of this House—on what subject he was going to speak during the discussion, whether he would speak on the Budget proper and whether he had read the Budget Memorandum, if he was going to speak on the Budget. He replied, 'Why should I read the Budget Memorandum or any other document? I can speak on Retrenchment and Prohibition which need no study. I can say there is wasteful expenditure in every department so far as Retrenchment is concerned and as regards Prohibition, it needs no elaborate study. I can say there is illicit distillation going on in every village and that Prohibition has become a cottage industry. I can thus make a beautiful speech.' Sir, it is easy to make such general charges. Sir, Retrenchment is a subject which has been a favourite one for the Opposition right from 1920. If we only go through the speeches in the old Legislative Councils—whether it is 1920-21 or 1930-31—we will find the same charge levelled against the Government repeatedly. It is a very popular subject. If there is a fall in revenue, immediately one can jump up and say there should be retrenchment. If a municipality or even a panchayat asks for, say, two clerks, one scavenger and a lighting man, it is very easy to say that one clerk will do, a part-time scavenger should suffice and there is no need for a separate lighting man. With regard to the establishment in District Boards and Universities also, we can make the same suggestions. But is it possible to implement our suggestions? We did appoint a Committee for Retrenchment. They did produce a very valuable report. The Heads of Departments, the Secretaries to Government, the High Court Judges and the Ministers racked their brains to see whether they could revert to pre-war conditions so far as the size of their respective establishments was concerned but could they do anything? Our Departments have been growing, we have been spending larger sums of money every year now, under Public Works and for affording educational facilities to the people, and our medical bill is also increasing. Above all, we have to take greater precautions for the maintenance of law and order and our Police and Jails Departments have to be strengthened. Furthermore, the seasonal conditions are not favourable and we are not in a position to make any retrenchment in respect of the Civil Supplies staff. So, to our great regret and disappointment, nothing much has happened after the Retrenchment Committee had submitted its report. Nonetheless, we did effect some small savings in our expenditure on establishment. I remember some statement was laid in this regard on the table of the House some time ago in reply to a question from an hon. Member of this House. My hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao and several others have

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi] [9th March 1950]

again and again pointed out that if the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee had been accepted, it would have resulted in a good deal of savings for the Government. But, Sir, it is not so easy as that. When we take into consideration the number of currents that are received in every office, in every department, after all, the currents are the well-known yard-stick to measure the volume of work turned out by each department—and the work done by them, it will be found that no large-scale retrenchment is possible. As I have said, we could not do much. We appointed a Special Officer to go into the question of 'Contingencies' under which we have been spending about 3 crores of rupees every year. We appointed a Senior Assistant Secretary of the Finance Department to this post and he made certain recommendations. Most of them were accepted by the Government and we have taken credit for saving nearly 90 lakhs of rupees or so on this account. We did issue directions to the heads of departments to effect a twelve and a half per cent reduction in their staff. Our orders were a little bit arbitrary too, and we expected a large amount of savings. But our scope was limited and we have now come in for a good deal of criticism. I can say, Sir, we could not do better because we felt it would be inadvisable and dangerous to go against the expert advice of the departmental heads, most of whom are senior I.C.S. men. We are but laymen after all. A departmental head might ask for some more clerks, some upper division clerks and so on. If the Finance Secretary refuses to accede and if I were to support him, then the result will be that, at the end of the year, when the progress of work done by the department is reviewed, the head of the department will turn up and say that nothing could be possible during the year since no ministerial staff was made available to him. The head of the department needs assistants to carry out his orders. He wants a Manager, a Superintendent, upper division clerks, lower division clerks and so on. Will not my hon. Friend, Dr. John, feel greatly handicapped if he does not have his juniors by his side? (Laughter.) Similarly, these subordinates are very necessary to carry on the administration . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN :—“ Did he say so? I think the Deputy Leader and the other Members by his side are his juniors.” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Sir, the Leader of the Opposition again wanted to know what our policy is. He said that the Budget speech did not contain seriatim all the policies of the Government in the various departments. Perhaps he wanted the Budget speech to be a compendium of all the Government Orders passed and things done in the last year. I did not know that the purpose of the Budget speech, according to the Leader of the Opposition, was to indicate policies in respect of each department. I do not know whether we must come out every year with a new policy and announce it to the House during the Budget speech. My own feeling, however, is that we should consolidate what has been done so far rather than say, 'this is our education policy for this year, this is our agricultural policy,

[9th March 1950] [Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

this is our fisheries policy' and so on. It may look grand eloquent but it is time that we cry halt to policies consolidate what we have achieved and try to spend more money on the expanding departments, instead of announcing big policies which are not sometimes meant to be fulfilled. I do not, therefore, feel repentant for not having indicated our policies. Perhaps we do not have any policies or our policy is to spend more money on education, on the general welfare of the masses and on the maintenance of law and order. No great policy is needed, no policy needs to be indicated for the maintenance of law and order. Likewise, it needs no mention that we intend spending so much on elementary education, primary education and collegiate education. If we make funds available to the Director of Public Instruction or the Universities, as the case may be, they will carry out the work. They know their responsibility. If the Government are able to find more money, they will spend that money also for the welfare of the people in spite of the charge that the Government lack policy. Some one in the other House wanted to know what our policy with regard to Fisheries, Education, Motor Vehicles, etc., was. (Interruption.) Sir, at this rate, if hon. Members go on asking for new policies every year, woe unto me, unto you and the State. It is better we have less policies and programmes and more money.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ We wanted only a continuity of policy.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Lastly, Sir, I was very much pained the other day when a gentleman from Uttar Pradesh, who came to Madras to study our procurement policy, made a statement, perhaps a very irresponsible statement.

“ He charged the Madras Government. He also felt that some States were not using the Food subsidies granted by the Union Government for the benefit of the consumer. He said the Madras State was using the food subsidy to finance prohibition programme. I think it is Mr. Satish Chandra that made this charge. He came to Madras with some Committee or Commission. He made this statement in Parliament. I do not know whether the Finance Minister or somebody pulled him up. I asked my department to get all the necessary figures and now I have got my figures. The Government of India gave us during 1946-47 to 1948-49 these three years, 18.12 crores on either the Post-war Development schemes or the Grow More Food Schemes, for procurement, bonuses or subsidies on imported grains. Of course, the Government of India shares a portion of the burden on grains imported from overseas. Only if you procure rice or millets from Pakistan or U.P. or J.P. the entire burden falls on the State Government itself. If rice or millets or whatever it is, if it is bought from overseas, the Government of India bears 75 per cent of the difference between the purchasing price and the local price and the Provincial Government bears 25 per cent. This is with regard to the distribution of financial burdens. So under these four heads, the Government of India gave us 18.12 crores and during the same period we have spent 26.57 crores, about 8 crores and 50 lakhs over and above

5-30
p.m.

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi] [9th March 1950]

what we received from the Government of India. Yet the hon. Member has chosen to speak on the occasion and charged the Madras Government that we are utilizing Government of India Food subsidies to meet deficit on account of prohibition. Then again in 1949-50 the Government of India have given us, at least we have taken credit for 7.64 crores, 2.5 crores under post-war development schemes, 0.50 crores under Grow More Food, 2.03 for procurement, bonuses and subsidies on imported food grains 2.61. In the total we take credit for 7.64 crores in the revised estimate for the current year. As against this amount we expect to spend about 19.49 crores in the current year. Likewise for the Budget year we expect from the Government of India 3.73 crores. As against this we expect to spend 21.35 crores. This includes post-war development schemes on which we are going to spend 16.85 crores. The schemes include the Electricity schemes and all other developmental schemes. So, Sir, not a single pie of the Food subsidy given by the Government of India is being utilized on our revenue accounts to meet any possible deficit. On the other hand we have been spending much more than what they give us on food subsidies. Perhaps the Member when he was here might have heard that we were levying some sales tax and administration charges on the rice sold. Perhaps it created a little confusion in the Member and so made the statement that we were utilizing Government of India grants to meet deficits on account of prohibition. Sir, this is not correct. I think, somebody, private Member or the Finance Minister will correct him and protect the honour of the Madras Government. Not a single pie of their grant is being misused or abused by the State Government."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—"I fully agree with the Hon. the Finance Minister. It is a very irresponsible statement which requires to be corrected."

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"I do not know what his authority was in making the statement."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I believe he is the gentleman who was here."

"That is as far as the financial portion of the budget is concerned. (Interruption.) Now my hon. Friend Mrs. Clubwala wants my reply about the individual requests and representations and individual demands as it were. Certainly these will be considered very sympathetically and when the schemes come we will see what we should do to push on these schemes which are desirable and which are of great necessity to check some of the abuses in the community. Therefore we shall certainly do our bit to spend more and more money on social welfare activities. We shall also try to strengthen the Women's Welfare Organization. A small deputation from the Women's Welfare Department also waited on us. We shall see how we can strengthen that department. Likewise there are other things for which provision has not been made in the Budget. Yet, when the scheme is ready we will take them up as a new service scheme. Under the New

9th March 1950] [Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

Constitution, every new service scheme has to get the prior approval of the Legislature. That is the difference between the existing Act and the New Constitution. It does not, however, preclude the State Government from taking up new schemes. We take up new schemes only after getting the sanction of the Legislature. That is what the Constitution says. If a useful scheme is ready it will certainly be sanctioned and the approval of the Legislature obtained and we will incur expenditure in the course of the year.

"Therefore, Sir, if I have not answered to the individual demands or points raised by hon. Members, I may not be misunderstood. As I have already said, all the speeches made by hon. Members are examined by the departments. The hon. Member need not think that they have fallen on deaf ears. Every speech is printed, collected and bound in big volumes and the departments scrutinize the speeches and suggestions made and see what could be done in the course of the year. Therefore, I may be pardoned if I did not answer all the points raised by the Members. I am really thankful to the Members for they have taken so much trouble to give vent to the grievances of the people and the demands of their constituencies. Certainly, Sir, we shall march on steadily towards that goal. As I have said in my Budget speech there is no short cut for it. We have no short cuts to this goal. We will have to go there after putting arduous work and good amount of toil. We will have to get necessary finances also for it. Our aim should be to get more money and spend more money for the welfare of the people and we cannot go on giving relief to the people that put up a wry face without taxation because our requirements are so much and they must be met immediately.

"I am really thankful to you, Sir, that it was possible for you to come at least on the last day. Last year also we completed the general discussion on the Budget on the 9th March. It is a happy coincidence that this year also we are concluding the first portion of the budget discussion on the 9th. We have next to go to the second stage taking up demand after demand. The House will be given an opportunity under the new Constitution again on the 30th of this month to have a review of the entire demands as passed by the Legislative Assembly. Therefore we will have another occasion on the 30th of this month to review the general budgetary position. I thank the Deputy Chairman, Sir, who was very considerate to Members ('hear, hear') and tried to give more Members an opportunity to speak on the budget but he could not do it as some Members spoke at very great length and Mr. Govindachari took more than 100 minutes each, or so. The Leader of the Opposition took an hour and fifteen minutes and likewise other Members have taken long time. While 62 Members took part in the discussion in the Assembly, only 27 could participate in the debate in this House. The Members have really made useful suggestions. It was a very happy atmosphere that we had in this House and it was a great pleasure to listen to the speeches. I am indeed thankful to all the Members."

[9th March 1950]

* **MR. CHAIRMAN** :—“ I wish to congratulate the House and especially the Leader of the Opposition for the very good resolution, the House has passed expressing its deep sympathy with the victims of the train tragedy. Apart from the reference to myself, for which I am very grateful, it is the duty of every one in this country not only to sympathise with these poor victims of this ghastly tragedy but also to condemn, if it is really an act of sabotage, those human devils who have been responsible for the diabolical outrage. I heartily associate myself with the sentiments expressed in that resolution and hope such things do not recur in the future. I was an eye witness to that tragedy and I can tell the hon. Members what frightful scenes I was made the witness when this tragedy occurred the other day. The House has been really very good indeed in expressing its sympathy with the poor departed among whom I claim at least an old classmate of mine. Our business is more to sympathise with the dead than to congratulate the living. The living are there. They will live. But the dead cannot be resuscitated and so it is our duty to give our sympathy to the poor families who lost their dear ones so suddenly and so tragically. As regards myself, I am very thankful that the hon. Members not only in this House but also outside have showered their expression of sympathy and it is a consolation to me. I do not know how I can repay all the affection that was bestowed upon me these few days and to-day when the House expressed its joy to see me here, I was really overcome and I sincerely thank the hon. Members for their goodness.

“ As regards the discussion, it has been going on for the past few days. I may tell the hon. Members that though I am still far from being well, I could not resist the temptation to be with you at least for some little time on the last day. Having come here now and from what I have heard I am really very sorry I missed all the other speeches. I was told that very valuable and very good speeches were made, specially this year. I wish to go through them and be benefited by them. I congratulate the speakers on their excellent performance.

“ Last but not the least, it is my duty to personally thank the Deputy Chairman who has so cheerfully borne the brunt of guiding this discussion of the House during the past few days.

I thank you, every one of you, for the expression of sympathy and I wish that this kind of good feeling and fellowship would continue for ever in our House.

“ The House will now adjourn and meet on the 20th instant at 2-30 p.m.”

The House then adjourned.



