



MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

TENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

21st to 24th, and 27th to 31st, August and 1st, 3rd and 4th September
1951.

Volume XI (Nos. 1 to 12).

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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 21st August 1951.

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

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

I.—SWEARING-IN OF A MEMBER.*

Sri K. T. Kunhi Kammaran Nambiar was sworn in.

II.—CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS.

(1) *Re* THE DEATH OF SRIMATHI RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI.

MR. SPEAKER:—“It is my painful duty to inform the House about the death of Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

‘That this House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Srimathi Rukmini Lakshmipathi, late Member for Madras City, Women, General, Urban Constituency and conveys its sense of sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.’

A prominent Member of this House, who occupied distinguished positions, has passed away from us on the 6th of this month. Though she was ailing for sometime, we did not think that her end would come so soon and unexpectedly. We expected that she would recover and come to us again. I was away on camp when I heard the news of her death on the radio. I was deeply shocked and grieved by the news. Immediately I sent my personal condolences to her husband Dr. Lakshmipathi.

“Having graduated from the Madras University, she took a prominent part in women's movements and in the field of civic duties as a member of the Madras Corporation and the Chingleput District Board. She came to prominence in public life when she attended the tenth International Women's Suffrage Alliance Congress held in June 1926 at Paris as a delegate from India. When she was elected as a delegate, various women's organizations sent her greetings because she was going on a very important mission. Since then she was in the forefront of the social and the political movement. But her indomitable courage and patriotism came to the forefront when she joined the Salt Satyagraha movement in 1930. She was the first woman satyagrahi in the whole of India to be arrested in that movement. She was elected a member of the Madras Legislative Council in 1935 in a by-election in a City constituency. In 1937 and again in 1946 she was elected a member

* See Appendix I on page 9 infra.

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of the Madras Legislative Assembly. During 1937-39, she was the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. After Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi Reddi, she was the first woman member to occupy that distinguished position. We are aware of the keen interest she took as Deputy Speaker in Parliamentary affairs and the proceedings of this House.

"She went to jail again in 1940 or so. When the Congress took up office in 1946, she was appointed Minister for Public Health. We are all aware of the keen interest she took in matters pertaining to medical education and public health. Her attachment to indigenous systems of medicine is well known and she was responsible for giving an impetus to education in the indigenous systems of medicine. She laid the foundation for the College of Indigenous Medicine, though the actual materialization came later on. She was greatly responsible for starting the medical college at Guntur. We remember with what persistence she wanted these colleges to be started immediately. It is really a great pity that we have lost her. She was not very advanced in age; she could have been with us for many more years and served the country in various respects. She was the Vice-President of the Tamil Nad Congress Committee for a number of years and went about the districts with great zeal carrying the message of the Congress in those troublous times. Certainly her death is a great loss to the women's movement and the political activities of our State. It is but right that we send our sincere condolences to her husband Dr. Lakshmipathi and her children who are overcome with grief on account of her unexpected demise. Therefore it is my melancholy duty to move this resolution."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my duty to associate myself with the remarks made by the Hon. Leader of the House in connexion with the very sad demise of one of our important colleagues in the House. Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi's personality, though very unobtrusive, was a striking one. Though she seemed quiet, I know what a lot of vigour and energy she demonstrated for any good cause that she happened to take up. Whether as a Minister or as an ordinary member of the House, she displayed the same vigour and energy. Outside this House she had been rendering immense service to humanity—not only to the womanhood of the country but also to the general public. Her death is really a great loss, particularly for the services with which she was intimately connected. The place that has fallen vacant on account of her departure from our midst is not very easy to fill. It is really very sad that we should have lost her particularly at this juncture. I and my colleagues in the House join in the condolence expressed in the form of a resolution moved by the Hon. Leader of the House."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with profound sorrow that I associate myself with the condolence resolution on the passing away of a great colleague of ours Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi. So far as I am concerned, I feel that it is a loss not only of a colleague in the Corporation of

[21st August 1951] [Janab Abdul Hameed Khan]

Madras, in the old Legislative Council and in the Legislative Assembly of 1937-39 and in the present Assembly, but also of a friend with whom I had the privilege of being a fellow-student in the Presidency College. The late Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi was not only a very able scholar but also a very great patriot who took up the cause of the poor and down-trodden and served them to the best of her ability and even at great sacrifice. The Hon. Leader of the House mentioned the great work that she did in building up the Congress movement in South India. She was one of the pioneers who were responsible for building up the Congress in this State. She did not care for her health. She went from place to place in this State, and worked for the Congress movement. She held many places. Of course she was only second in our State to occupy the position of Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. But she, I think, was the first lady Minister in the State, and I am not sure whether there was any other lady anywhere else in the country who occupied the position of a Minister before her."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Srimathi Vijayalakshmi Pandit."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"As Minister in charge of Public Health, she did yeoman service to the people by opening not only medical colleges but also improving the hospitals in the State to a very large extent. As has been rightly mentioned by the Leader of the House, she was a friend of the indigenous system of medicine, and during her Ministership, the indigenous system received great help and encouragement. People who have received benefit from that system will remember her with gratitude. I know, Sir, that there cannot be two opinions with regard to that system. She laid the foundation for the College of Indigenous Medicine in our State, and with a certain amount of help, I am sure that it will stand equal to any other college of any other system in our State. Her passing away is indeed a great loss not only to the State but to the country as a whole, for she was a great patriot."

BAGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with feelings of deep anguish that I rise to mourn the loss of my dear friend and colleague, Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi. She was my constant companion in the ladies' room during the sessions of this Legislature, and her loss is being keenly felt by the women members of this House. The deceased member was a pioneer in many fields, in particular in regard to women's advancement in this country. It was she who by her example demonstrated to the womanhood not only of this State but of the whole of India that women, while discharging their duties in the home, could also take part in public activities. When the call came from the Nation, she left her home and family and underwent innumerable sufferings. She was incarcerated a number of times in the cause of the country's freedom. It must be stated that along with many stalwarts in this land, she was one of the architects of the country's freedom. As a Deputy Speaker of this House and as the

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* 11. Notification issued with G.O. No. 675, Home, dated 16th February 1951, regarding exemption of vehicles belonging to the World Health Organization and the International Tuberculosis Campaign from payment of tax.

* 12. Notification issued with G.O. No. 2071, Home, dated 25th May 1951, regarding continuance of concessional rates of tax for vehicles plying within the limits of the former Pudukkottai State.

* 13. Notification issued with G.O. No. 2501, Home, dated 25th June 1951, regarding exemption of certain lorries belonging to the Industries and Commerce Department from payment of tax.

* 14. Notification issued with G.O. No. 2033, Home, dated 25th May 1951, regarding exemption of jeep belonging to the World Health Organization from payment of tax.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide item I on page 1 supra.]

The following Members took their oath before the Hon. Speaker in his Chamber on 20th August 1951:—

(1) Sri T. Viswanatham.

(2) Mr. E. F. G. Hunter.

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 - A. Bills—
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- (4) The Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Bill, 1951 .. 532-562

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[Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin] [21st August 1951]

first woman Minister in this State, she discharged her duties with remarkable ability and competence. She rose to occupy the position of being the first woman Minister in this State not by reason of the fact that the party in power was anxious to have a woman Minister; but by sheer dint of her ability, which got due recognition. The most impressive trait in the late Mrs. Lakshmipathi was her infinite charm of personality what characterized her were her spirit of humility, and simplicity, which are so uncommon among those who rise to high positions. She was a unique personality among women combining indomitable courage along with considerable intelligence. It is indeed sad that we have lost such a rare and noble personality at a time when there is a dearth of able women in our midst. But though she is gone, her memory and her achievements will live enshrined in the hearts of those who know her. In conclusion, I may mention about this noble lady that her life was gentle and the elements were so mixed in her, that nature might well stand up and proclaim to all the world 'This was a perfect woman; May her soul rest in peace.'

MR. SPEAKER:—"I desire to associate the Chair with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the United Democratic Party and the hon. the lady Member. I need not repeat all that has been said by hon. Members. Suffice it to say that she was a very great social worker, and she took keen interest in the affairs of this House. The Resolution is—

'That this House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Srimathi Rukmini Lakshmipathi, late Member for the Madras City Women General Urban Constituency and conveys its sense of sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.'

The Resolution was carried *nem. con.*, all the Members standing.

(2) Re THE DEATH OF SRI K. A. NACHIAPPA GOUNDER.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I am really shocked to tell the House that I have just now received information that Sri K. A. Nachiappa Gounder, a Member of this House, expired at 11-10 a.m."

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

'That this House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Sri K. A. Nachiappa Gounder, late Member for the Omalur General Rural Constituency, and conveys its sense of sympathy to the members of the bereaved family'.

"Sir, strange as the ways of Providence are, for some time now Mr. Nachiappa Gounder was suffering from tuberculosis undergoing treatment in Perundurai sanatorium, and, after a sort of recovery, he attended the Session yesterday. Before I entered the House, I sat by his side, and spoke a few words about his health, etc. For ostensible purposes, he was looking alright, hale and healthy but it is such a treacherous disease that under apparent

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recovery, there is always the possibility of it eating into the vitals. Suddenly perhaps, there was hæmorrhage, and he has collapsed. Just now, as we entered this House, though he was suffering for long we did not know that he would collapse so soon. Suddenly comes the bolt from the blue, as it were, that he died. We hear that he collapsed in the Government House Estate, Mount Road, Madras. He died in harness while attending to his parliamentary duties. I knew him very intimately when he was the President of the Salem District Board during the years 1937-39. He was really one of our eldest District Board Presidents. He was a very energetic worker with great perseverance. In the non-cooperation movement, he played a very distinct part. Lastly, Sir, just before his illness perhaps his illness was due to his over exertion as Member of the Local Finance Enquiry Committee, appointed by the Government of India, he was touring from State to State. He was taking very active interest in the deliberations of the Committee. When the Committee was in Madras the Chairman told me about that. Even when he was ill, he was asked telegraphically to go to Delhi to assist in the deliberations of the Committee. They felt his absence so much that even in spite of his ill-health, they could not spare him, and they had to summon him to Delhi and Simla. We also remember with gratitude the hard work that he put in as the Chairman of the Prohibition Enquiry Committee. He gave various suggestions which the Government are trying to implement. In whatever field he worked (even as Secretary of the Party), he worked with seriousness and with a sense of responsibility. Certainly it is a great loss that in his early forties, he had to lay down his life. I think he is about 47, having been born in 1904. It is a great pity we have lost an invaluable colleague."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, with profound sorrow I second the Resolution that has been placed before the House by the Hon. the Leader of the House. Mr. Nachiappa Gounder, as a well-known figure not only in the Assembly but in various parts of our State, had really made his mark in every field he chose to work. His, again, was a striking personality. Though he was suffering from this fell disease for a pretty long time, he had been exerting himself and showing what a fund of energy irrepressible energy he had, and all that energy he had been using in the cause of the public. The services which he rendered will not be forgotten not only by his party men but also by the general public. He had done yeoman service in the cause of Prohibition and various other social fields. His sudden demise is really a great loss not only to the House but also to the public at large. Sir, I once again express my deep regret and sorrow at the death of this very valued and valuable friend and colleague, and I associate my party with the Resolution that is before the House."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was indeed a great shock to the Members of this House to hear the tragic news of the sudden passing away of one of our colleagues who was with us here only yesterday. These sudden deaths are a

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reminder to men that this world is ephemeral and undependable. A colleague, who was with us yesterday, is not with us to-day! This is certainly a tragedy and again a reminder to us that we have to be worthy of ourselves and that we should try to serve our fellowmen before we pass away. Mr. Nachiappa Gounder is now remembered for the great and good work he had done. As a public worker, he was energetic and active. He was one who, at the risk of his life, carried on his work and served the people in various capacities. He was with us in the old Legislative Council. He was with us in the last Assembly and in this Assembly also. As a Member of all these Houses he took keen interest in the work of the legislature. It is a pity that we have lost him. We send our condolences to the members of the bereaved family. We associate ourselves with the 'Condolence Resolution.'

11-30 a.m. SRI T. S. PATTABHIRAMAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, with very deep regret I associate myself with the Resolution that has been moved by the Hon. the Leader of the House. Sir, this is a great loss to the Salem district, because one of the leading men of that district has passed away. Those who knew Sri Nachiappa Gounder personally will bemoan his loss not only in the political field but also in the public as well as in the co-operative fields. As a matter of fact, Sir, ever since 1930, he has been a Member of the Legislative Council or Assembly of this State and he has devoted every minute of his life for the cause of the country, for the cause of the district and for the public cause that deserved encouragement. His achievements in the co-operative field are great and but for Sri Nachiappa Gounder, we cannot say that co-operation could have reached that magnificent level which it has reached in the State in the past few years. He had been a selfless worker, a man of principles, who would rather incur the displeasure of his opponents than give up his cause. He has been a staunch fighter in what he believed was in the best interest of the people. He was the President of the Hindustani National Scouts' Association and by holding offices in various capacities in the district, in the taluk and in the State, he had been a tower of strength to the people and a tower of strength to the public organization. In his demise we have lost a formidable figure, a public figure, who will not be easily replaced, and that is a great loss to us.

"Sir, in the Congress field, he had been a staunch Congressman and he had done his best for the cause of the country. His sense of duty and loyalty to service can be very easily known when we see that in spite of his very bad health, he thought it fit to attend the Assembly meeting and carry on his work. The people of Salem district have lost one of their greatest sons and the State has lost one of its public workers and the void can hardly be filled."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I associate the Chair with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the United Democratic Party and the other hon. Member. A few minutes back while the hon. Lady Member, Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin, was making a speech, suddenly a

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clerk of the office came and told me that Sri Nachiappa Gounder had expired; I was taken aback and was shocked to hear the news of his death. Only two months ago, Sri Annamalai Pillai, Secretary of the Tamil Nad Congress Committee and I met him in the Sanatorium and he assured us that he would be present during this Session. I hope the hon. Members will remember that yesterday he was present here; he came to the office and took a lot of literature. It is a pity that we have lost him so soon. I never expected his death as soon. The Resolution is—

'That this House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Sri K. A. Nachiappa Gounder, late Member for the Omalur General Rural Constituency, and conveys its sense of sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.'

The Resolution was carried *nem. con.*, all the Members standing.

MR. SPEAKER:—"As a mark of respect for the deceased, the work of the House is suspended for today. I now adjourn the House till 11 o'clock to-morrow."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 22nd August 1951.

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

1. Balance sheet of the Fertilisers and Chemicals (Travancore), Limited, Alwaye, as at 31st December 1950.
2. Balance sheet of the Radio and Electricals, Limited (and Reduced) as at 31st December 1950.
3. Appropriation Accounts of the Government of Madras for 1948-49 and the Audit Report for 1950.
4. Finance Accounts of the Government of Madras for 1948-49 and the Audit Report for 1949.
5. Notification issued with G.O. No. 524, L.A., dated 24th March 1951, regarding constitution of Arni Municipality.
6. Notification issued with G.O. No. 522, L.A., dated 24th March 1951, regarding constitution of Bapatla Municipality.
7. Notification issued with G.O. No. 394, L.A., dated 8th March 1951, regarding constitution of Gudur Municipality.
8. Annual report of the Madras Public Service Commission for 1949-50, under Article 323 (2) of the Constitution.
9. The Madras Re-enacting Ordinance, 1951 (Madras Ordinance No. 1 of 1951). [Laid on the table in accordance with Article 213 (2) of the Constitution.]
10. Amendment to the Madras Public Service Commission Regulations, 1950, issued with G.O. No. 814, Public (Services), dated 4th April 1951, under proviso to Article 320 (3) of the Constitution. [Laid on the table in accordance with Article 320 (5) of the Constitution.]

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 22nd August 1951.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Reward to informers of Forest offences.

* 6 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any rewards have been offered to informers, of the Forest offences during the last three financial years; and

(b) if so, how much was offered to the informers of the Kurnool district?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. Chief Minister):—“(a) Rewards amounting to Rs. 18 were paid during 1948-49. No rewards were offered during 1949-50 and 1950-51.

“(b) Nil, Sir.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“In view of the fact that most of the forest offenders are rich and influential agriculturists and as it is very difficult for the informers who are very poor to tell the Forest Department about the offences committed, will the Government consider the desirability of giving, in addition to rewards, adequate protection that is needed?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“For the last two years we have not given any rewards at all. Therefore, there is no question of giving any kind of protection. There have been no offences brought to the notice of the Government in the last two years.”

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—“Apart from rewards to informers of forest offences, may I know, Sir, whether any reward is given to informers of offences like blackmarketing, etc.?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“This does not arise out of the main question.”

JANAB K. M. SEETHI:—“May I know, Sir, whether Kurnool holds the record for the commission of forest offences?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I have no information. The hon. Member, Sri Nagappa, asked for information about Kurnool and that has been furnished.”

JANAB M. S. ATAULLAH:—“Arising out of the answer of the Hon. the Minister, may I ask whether he means that there have been no informers and, therefore, no rewards for the last two years?”

* Questions 1 to 5 which were in the list for 21st August 1951 were postponed.

[22nd August 1951]

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ The information asked for is whether any rewards have been given. We have said that for the last two years there have been no rewards given. It may be that there were informers but Government did not consider it worthwhile to give any rewards to them.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ In view of the fact that no one came forward in the last two years to inform the Forest Department about offences in spite of the fact that there were many forest offences, do the Government realise that it is due to lack of adequate protection that such a state of affairs has obtained? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ The question does not follow. I only said that there were no rewards made in the last two years. It does not mean there were no informers and no useful information was given to the department. We will certainly give all protection to those that supply useful information to the department.”

SRI V. J. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—“ Will the Government consider the advisability of affording proper facilities to those who bring to the notice of the department not only offences committed in the forests but also such things as forest fires, etc., which tend to ruin the forests? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Certainly all facilities will be given to persons who give useful information to the department. All matters that are cognate to this subject will be duly considered.”

Proposals to provincialize the Bobbili hospital.

* 7 Q.—SRI G. SEETHARAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Government to provincialize the Bobbili hospital and also any representation has been received from the public of Bobbili to this effect; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to merge the local fund hospital with the maternity hospital run by the Raja Saheb of Bobbili?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ (a) & (b) The answer is in the negative ”

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD :—“ May I know whether the Government will not consider the desirability of taking over hospitals in zamindari areas? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ This does not relate to the main question. If, however, the Hon. the Minister is prepared to answer, I have no objection.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ The whole question is one of finance.”

[22nd August 1951]

Training schools for subordinates in Forest department.

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

(a) the total number of training schools run by the Forest department for subordinates;

(b) their location;

(c) the duration of training; and

(d) the facilities provided to Forest department subordinates during the period of training?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) :—“ (a) No permanent training schools for forest subordinates are maintained. Whenever found necessary, schools for the training of Foresters and Forest Guards are held periodically.

(b) The schools are generally held in Godavari Lower Division for the training of Telugu-knowing forest subordinates of Bellary and Salem circles, in Coimbatore South Division for the training of Tamil-knowing forest subordinates of Salem, Coimbatore and Ootacamund circles and in Nilambur Division for the Malayalam-knowing forest subordinates of the Ootacamund circle. If there is sufficient number of Kannada-speaking forest subordinates, a school for their training is also held in South Kanara Division.

(c) The duration of training is six months;

(d) The Forest department subordinates deputed for training in the Forest Guards' schools get their pay and allowances during the period of training besides travelling allowance for the tours undertaken by them in connection with the training. The subordinates maintain a common mess and share the expenses. The health of the trainees is looked after by the instructors.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ So far as the Telugu-knowing subordinates are concerned, the Hon. the Minister has said, there is one school in Godavari. May I ask why there is no school in the Rayalaseema? Will the Government consider the desirability of opening one in the Rayalaseema for the Forest subordinates from Bellary and Chittoor who cannot go all the way to Godavari? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ For the whole Tamil-knowing population, we have only one school; and there is no great harm in having one school for the entire Telugu-knowing subordinates. If the hon. Member's contention is ‘ why not have it in Rayalaseema ’, then it is a matter which has to be considered in due course.”

[22nd August 1951]

Number of breeding bulls maintained by the Government.

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

(a) the number of breeding bulls maintained by the Government at present; and

(b) the cost of maintenance of each bull per annum?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“(a) 179.

“(b) Rs. 1,150 per annum on an average.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know whether the 179 breeding bulls mentioned just now are maintained by private non-official agencies or by the Government in the Veterinary Department?”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“The bulls are maintained by the Government in the Government Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know whether the maintenance of such bulls is undertaken only in such places where there is a large number of cattle?”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“My hon. Friend seems to be thinking of the bulls kept under the Premium Scheme. These bulls are maintained by the Government at Veterinary institutions. There are also other bulls maintained under the Premium Scheme, as many as 1,197.”

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know whether there has been any further extension of the scheme of artificial insemination for the speedy improvement of the quality of our cattle?”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“There are three artificial insemination centres now working and provision has been made in the Budget for opening two more centres, one at Arnamalai and the other at Ootacamund. Another proposal is under consideration to have key farm schemes in connexion with several of the Government Cattle Farms where also artificial insemination work will be done.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“Is it a fact that the Government have received complaints that in view of the inadequacy of the number of Ongole breeding bulls, cattle wealth in the State could not be improved and that the Government should think of better methods of breeding Ongole bulls such as by way of artificial insemination?”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“The Ongole bulls are serving very satisfactorily.” (Laughter.)

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government have any scheme to import ‘tubes’ for artificial insemination from foreign countries.”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“Equipment not available here is got from outside.”

[22nd August 1951]

Andhra Provincial Homœopathic College, Gudivada.

* 10 Q.—SRI A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Andhra Provincial Homœopathic College at Gudivada, Krishna district, managed by Dr. Gurraju, has applied to the Government recently for a grant, and if so, whether any grant has been made; and

(b) whether the Government have permitted the local bodies to give contributions for the upkeep of that College?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) The Andhra Provincial Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital, Gudivada, applied to the Government for a token grant for the maintenance of the college and hospital in November 1950, but was not given any grant.

“(b) The Municipal Council, Gudivada, is the only local body that came forward to contribute Rs. 3,000 from its funds to the institution and it has been permitted to make the contribution.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“I want to know whether the Government have come to any decision with regard to the recognition of this homœopathic college for being patronized by the Government and for being given grants, both by the Government and by the local bodies, or at least by the local bodies.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“It is a big question for the Government to consider. It refers to the system of treatment which the Government have not examined satisfactorily so far; if necessary, they will consider it. But as a matter of fact, the Government have allowed homœopathic institutions to function and they are certainly awaiting the results of the homœopathic system that is being practised in those institutions.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“May I know what is wrong in Government allowing local bodies in the country to help these institutions? Cannot Government do something to prevent these institutions from going out of existence?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“If the Government are forced to do it, they will take the necessary steps; otherwise, they would like to await the results of their working.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“I want to know whether permission has been given to all local bodies to help, if they choose, this Gudivada institution, or whether such permission is restricted to local bodies in the locality?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The fact that one local body has been permitted to give this contribution is proof to show that similar contributions from other local bodies will be permitted.”

[22nd August 1951]

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL :—" May I know how the Government are now studying the question as to whether this is a proper medical system and an effective system? Are they studying it by making enquiries of the patients who have been treated under this system or in any other manner? If it is the latter, may I ask the Government whether they are not satisfied from the innumerable cases that have been successfully treated under this system up to now that this is a proper medical system? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" But the main question refers to the Andhra Provincial Homoeopathic College at Gudivada. I am afraid the hon. Member's question now is too wide."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL :—" The Hon. Minister has already answered more than one question bearing on the efficacy of this system. I want to know whether the Government are not satisfied that they have now to take steps for encouraging the working of this system."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The answer to that question may lead to some other question; I wish to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is willing to answer the question of the Leader of the Opposition."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" That question has not come up before the Government at all."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions are over."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—" May I know, Sir, when we will be taking up yesterday's questions? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" They will be taken up on some other day."

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

II.—ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR. SPEAKER.

(1) LETTER FROM SRI D. K. V. RAGHAVA VARMA.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have received the following letter from Sri D. K. V. Raghava Varma, Secretary to the State Legislature :—

'I thank you and the hon. Members of the Legislative Assembly for their generous appreciation of my services as Secretary to the State Legislature.'

The House will remember that we passed a resolution at the last session regarding his retirement, and this is the letter sent by him in reply to that resolution which was communicated to him."

[22nd August 1951]

(2) RESIGNATION, ETC., OF MEMBERS.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have to inform the House that since we last met in April 1951, under the provisions of clause (3) (b) of Article 190 of the Constitution, the following members tendered their resignation of the office of Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly :—

- (1) Mr. B. W. Batchelor,
- (2) Sri T. Viswanatham,
- (3) „ K. T. Kunhi Kammaran Nambiar.
- (4) „ G. Sanyasi Rao.

Of these, Sri T. Viswanatham and Sri K. T. Kunhi Kammaran Nambiar have been re-elected as Members of the Madras Legislative Assembly.

" Mr. E. F. G. Hunter was elected as a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly in the place of Mr. B. W. Batchelor.

" Sri G. Sanyasi Rao's vacancy has not yet been filled up.

" I have also to announce that Janab T. T. P. Kunhi Packer failed to lodge with the Returning Officer the return of his election expenses within the prescribed time and has therefore ceased to be a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly with effect from the 18th May 1951, and his seat has consequently been notified as vacant on and from the date aforesaid under Article 388 (2) of the Constitution of India and section 69 (1) (f) of the Government of India Act, 1935, read with paragraph 4 of the Provisional State Legislature (Casual Vacancies) Order, 1950."

III.—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" I would like to know the programme of work before the House, Sir. I should like also to know from the Hon. Leader of the House, through you, Sir, as to whether some time will be given for a full-dress debate on the food situation. We were all anxiously expecting this Assembly session to come off now after several months; even the Government have admitted that the food situation has not improved and is still proving difficult. I think, therefore, they must allow us at least a two days' debate on the food situation. I would also request the Hon. Leader of the House, through you, Sir, to let us know the programme of work."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Sir, I think we will sit on till the 1st of September or so—that being Saturday—and we will adjourn, to meet again some time later in September. We are now going to have a two days' debate on the Governor's Address and Members have ample opportunities of raising the food question in their speeches. And if it is necessary that we should have a separate debate, we shall certainly think about it later on; but in the meanwhile, we shall get a note prepared on

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi] [22nd August 1951]

the latest food situation and lay it on the table of the House, so that, if necessary, we may think of having a discussion later on."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"I beg to submit, Sir, that while we are grateful to the Hon. Leader of the House for assuring us that he would consider the suggestion favourably regarding the food debate, it will be impossible to have a regular food debate on the Governor's Address, particularly in view of the fact that in the entire Governor's speech of fourteen pages, there is not more than a line or two referring to the food position. If there has been a more detailed reference to it there, perhaps it would have been possible to discuss the position; but as it is, I submit, it is absolutely necessary that we should have a full-dress debate on the food situation. I request that the statement to be prepared by the Hon. Food Minister may be expedited and placed on the table of the House as early as possible even without hoping for any detailed discussion of the food position on the Governor's Address. If we are to discuss the food position during this debate, our attention will be detracted from other subjects covered by the Governor's Address which are of equal importance."

IV.—PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall announce the Panel of Chairmen to-morrow."

V.—REPORT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have to acquaint the House that on the 20th August 1951, His Excellency the Governor was pleased to make a speech to both the Houses of the Legislature, of which I had, for greater accuracy, obtained a copy and placed it on the table of the House on the 20th itself."

VI.—DISCUSSION ON HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

* SRI P. A. THANGASWAMI NADAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move—

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in the following terms:—

"May it please Your Excellency,

We, the Members of the Madras Legislative Assembly, beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the Address delivered to both the Houses of the Legislature."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Before the hon. Member proceeds further, let me inform the House that to-day we will take up this motion for discussion; and to-morrow amendments to this motion may be moved and discussed provided the day is taken up for transacting official business. And the day after to-morrow, at 11 o'clock, the Hon. Minister will reply to the debate. In all, we will have 2½ days allotted for this purpose."

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SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Am I to understand, Sir, that this motion thanking His Excellency will be discussed throughout the whole of to-day?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes, the whole day. Members will discuss the Address; the amendments will be moved to-morrow and discussed and the Hon. Minister will reply the day after to-morrow."

* SRI P. A. THANGASWAMI NADAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I really consider it a great privilege and honour to be allowed to move this motion thanking His Excellency for his Address. This is indeed a very important meeting of the Assembly, because we meet here for the last time before the general elections take place. It is therefore our duty to look back and have an appraisal of the achievements of the Government during the last four and a half years. On a review of the entire activities of the Government—of which only a portion has been stated in the Address of the Governor—I feel it is my duty to congratulate the Government."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether some Members can speak on this motion to-day and again on the amendments to-morrow?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The convention is that those who have taken part in the discussions to-day should not take part to-morrow in the discussion on the amendments."

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"What is wrong in our speaking on the amendments also, Sir? Is it a convention?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"That is the convention that has been obtaining here since the last two sessions."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, I want to know whether in the course of the debate on this motion of thanks to His Excellency for his speech, we should not say anything against any statement made therein. And where is the need, in these days, to follow this convention which is being observed in England? After all, Sir, the Governor's speech is really a speech prepared by the Government of Madras and we are going to criticise only the Government of Madras; and I take it that is the duty of the Opposition. When therefore we are going to criticise the speech, there is no sense—it seems to me—in observing this convention."

MR. SPEAKER:—"But there are Members who see eye to eye with His Excellency and want to praise His Excellency for his speech and they will all speak on the main motion."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"In some matters they may see eye to eye with His Excellency and in some matters they may not; and that is the reason why I say this convention should be held in abeyance."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"In England two days are allowed for debate on the Address and another three days for discussion on the amendments."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"But this is not England, Sir. Here voters are illiterate and vote for symbols. Surely, in England they do not vote for donkeys and elephants. (Laughter.) I want to know, Sir, whether it is not time for us to think of revising all these old ideas, whether instead of formally voting for a mere thanks for the Address by the Governor, we cannot say what we feel in regard to many of the subjects dealt with by him. I am against the whole thing—this procedure is absolutely not necessary, I think."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Our Constitution is based more or less on the English Constitution and that is why we are following the procedure obtaining in England."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"But in England the representation of the members is entirely different. Election of members of Parliament there is quite different from election of Members to this House."

MR. SPEAKER:—"But we must follow the convention that has already been established here, especially as our Constitution is more or less based on the Constitution of England."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"Sir, will you make it clear—if you have not already made it so—that Members who want to criticise the Government can do so even under this motion which has been moved by the hon. Member?"

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must draw your attention to certain remarks that have just fallen from the hon. gentleman Mr. Natesan regarding the representative character of the Members of the House. It is a very sad reflection that an experienced Member like him should put forward these charges. We are in no way different from Members of the Houses of Parliament in England, and we are perhaps more representative of the opinions of our people here than Members of Parliament are in England. It is only a question of theory, and I am not prepared just now to debate it in this House in full. But the remarks made by the hon. Member must be withdrawn."

"Another mischievous remark—I am sorry I have to call it mischievous—is that our people here vote for donkeys and elephants."

Sri P. Natesan rose—

MR. SPEAKER:—"Let not the hon. Member disturb the speaker. If he wants to make any personal explanation, he will be given an opportunity to do so."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Really it is most unpardonable that expressions like that should be used in this House."

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We are all looking forward, even as the hon. Gentleman Mr. Natesan is looking forward, to very fair and free elections throughout the country, and the aim of every one of the leaders of the Congress is that, and it has been unmistakably expressed. Hereafter to use such terms in the House either with reference to the past or with reference to the future would be wholly wrong, and I want you, therefore, Sir, to expunge those remarks from the records."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir. It is necessary that I should give a personal explanation. Unfortunately, the statement made by the hon. Gentleman Mr. Varadachari misleading the House, seems to be more mischievous. What I meant was that in this country we vote for symbols and these symbols we are having in the shape of elephants, bulls, etc. In the past elections, we voted for boxes coloured yellow, green or red, but nowadays we are adopting symbols. I am only sorry that the hon. Gentleman Mr. Varadachari has not been able to understand the humour of it. The whole point is that in this country, although we are supposed to have a good proportion of literate voters, we are banking mostly on illiterate voters; otherwise, there would not have been any need for the Government to accept the adoption of symbols. When I say this, I do not mean anything derogatory to the hon. Members of this House. I realise sufficiently my responsibility as a Member myself and it is not my idea to speak ill of anybody. What all I meant was that when we know there is so much of difference in respect of voting at elections in this country, there is no need for following what is obtaining in England. We are perhaps 100 per cent as good as the people in England. So, Sir, let me assure you there is nothing wrong in what I said."

Sri N. S. Varadachari rose—

MR. SPEAKER:—"We have had a personal explanation from the hon. Member Mr. Natesan, and he has told us that he never meant any insult to the House."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, may I submit that, since you have decided to follow a certain convention, that is of considering the main motion to-day and the amendments thereto to-morrow, we may be allowed to speak both on the main motion and the amendments to-day itself? The amendments may be formally moved to-day and then we may discuss both the main motion on the Address as well as the amendments. If we follow the convention referred to by you, then it will be practically preventing a good number of Members from speaking on the amendments at all, since the amendments are to be moved only to-morrow. In other words, you will be shutting out all Members who want to speak on the Address to-day from speaking on the amendments."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I would ask all the Members who want to move amendments, to move them one by one."

[Sri K. Brahmanandam Reddi] [22nd August 1951]

it benefits both the Tamil Nad and the undeveloped Rayalaseema and Nellore. Sir, charity begins at home, and I want to ask the Government 'what about me?' I am a person living right on the banks of the river Krishna. The people of Guntur and Krishna districts live on either side of the river Krishna. Naturally they are interested in knowing what happens to the waters of the Krishna which is flowing next door to them. It is not political agitation; neither is it political propaganda. I would beg of the Government not to misunderstand me as advancing a sectional or a territorial cause. I would also take this opportunity to request the gentlemen who have been sponsoring this cause not to indulge in any political propaganda and not to mix politics with this well-intentioned scheme. I want them to paint the picture as it is. Let them not paint it with misleading colours and spoil it. I am also bringing to the pointed attention of this Government the reply to the budget discussions made by the late Mr. Yakub Hassan in the year 1939 about the Krishna reservoir or Pulichintala project. Sir, you might see from the Legislative Assembly debates what the late Mr. Yakub Hassan said. He said that the files relating to the Krishna reservoir or Pulichintala project were on his table ready for sanction and execution. And we are now in 1951! Twelve years have elapsed. I beg to be excused if I say that this is a scheme which benefits 12 to 15 lakhs of acres with a meagre expenditure of Rs. 20 crores. All this amount will be paid by the ryots who are to be benefited. The scheme, as I have heard, can be executed in two or three years' time, and the food headache will be mostly cured. Therefore, I would earnestly request Government to take this scheme on hand. I want that this Government should include it in the 15-year programme, and submit it to the National Planning Commission. Recently we have seen in newspapers how the waters of the river Krishna are going to be distributed among the respective States, namely, Madras, Hyderabad and Mysore. We are told that we are likely to get 46½-47½ per cent of the waters. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether the waters of the Krishna, even after the execution of the Krishna-Pennar project, would be available for the Krishna reservoir scheme. If that is so, I am satisfied. I want the Hon. Minister to make a statement to allay the public misunderstanding and fear, because all sorts of rumours get afloat in the country casting all sort of aspersions on all sorts of people.

"I also want to know whether the Government propose to pursue the investigation of the Kortikanma canal scheme. Sir, you may remember that in my budget speech, I devoted most of my time to the advocacy of this scheme, because the area which is to be benefited by this scheme . . ."

JANAB M. S. ATAULLAH:—"On a point of information, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Let not the hon. Member interrupt the hon. Member Mr. Brahmanandam Reddi. He is not yielding."

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* SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"I would only request the Government to include this, and send it to the National Planning Commission for inclusion in the 15-year plan. If we want to develop in the next five years, we need Rs. 137 crores. Of course the note tells us how this Government propose to meet that expenditure. I am not concerned at the moment with the resources mentioned in the list."

"I come to the last item, namely, additional taxation. You know, Sir,—and I know too—that all taxation is unpopular. Additional taxation is sought to be levied on lands which grow commercial crops. I feel that the word 'commercial' is misleading inasmuch as the items proposed to be taxed are not in any sense commercial—at any rate, many of them are not commercial. I may at once tell this Government that I am opposed to taxation at the present moment."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, I thought the hon. Member was really seconding the motion that was moved. But I now see that he is trying to get some information from the Hon. Minister, and his speech looks like one opposing the motion."

* SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish the hon. Gentleman Mr. Natesan knows what it is to thank, and in thanking, what to say also. I want the hon. Gentleman to consider dispassionately what I say. It may be said that this is a responsible and a bold Government that seeks to tax people just on the eve of elections. But I may say in all humility that this Government in proposing a taxation of this type at the present moment is unimaginative. If the Government will not mistake me, I say they are unwise. Of course, it is true, Sir, 12-30 p.m. that the ryots are growing some commercial crops like tobacco, pepper, coconut, etc., and are making some little money. But is this the opportune time for levying a tax? That is what troubles me most, Sir. We are now on the eve of elections. I would ask whether this Government just at this moment, just on the eve of elections, have any right to levy a tax at all. I want to put it the other way about, Sir. I would like the Government to consider whether they can, by abolishing some taxes, try to get an unfair advantage over parties other than the Congress seeking to contest the elections. If really the Government do propose to abolish some taxes just now, Members of the Opposition Parties like the hon. Gentleman Sri Kothari would rise immediately and say that this is an unfair way of getting an advantage over parties opposed to the Congress. Similarly, I would say, "Do not burden the Congress with additional responsibilities at the moment." This is my view, Sir.

"Then, Sir, I come to the recommendations of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee. Of course, nothing is contained in the Address of His Excellency which induces in us the belief that all the recommendations of the Committee are going to be accepted. All the same, there are one or two matters about which I want to say a word or two. Firstly, an additional assessment is proposed to be levied on holdings paying an assessment of over

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and welfare of the Harijan community as a whole. A separate department of Harijan Welfare has been constituted with an Honorary Director as Sri V. Bashyam Ayyangar, whose services to the community are well-known. There is the Honorary Director and under him there are two Deputy Directors of Harijan Welfare. A Welfare Officer has been appointed to perform the necessary service in most of the districts. He is assisted by a number of subordinates. It is of course true that there has not been good response in some of the mofussil centres. The Harijan during the ten years before him has special privileges, i.e., awarding of scholarships or grants to those who are deserving in educational institutions. Special hostels have been established for the Harijan students. Apart from all that, the general community has been treated to a number of benefits by this Government. Free house-sites in various villages have been allotted to them. True in some centres the Harijan programme has not been implemented to the extent it has to be done by the Government. But, Sir, it depends a good deal on the local conditions of the place, the atmosphere of the place and also the facilities available in each district. It may be in a particular district we are not able to do what we really intend to do by the enforcement of these Acts. The Harijan complainant is supported by the Government by free legal aid wherever necessary. We also appreciate the fact that the Harijan members of the bar are excused their enrolment fee if they apply for enrolment as advocates of the High Court.

11-45 a.m. "On the question of the uplift of the Harijans, I propose to say one or two words especially regarding the programme of Prohibition. Of course, I am not going to deal with it in great detail. There are, no doubt, a number of obstacles to it. Perhaps it is found difficult to carry out the Prohibition programme in various places, but it may be due to various causes. Some people may ask for the suspension of the Prohibition programme, but I would strongly urge that there is no need for considering such a proposal at all. In fact, we ought to be thankful to His Excellency and his Government for carrying on the programme of Prohibition to the extent that is possible. Whatever might be the attitude and the response of the other communities to the Prohibition programme, I can say from my experience, that the Harijan stands to gain distinctly for he has no chance of going and seeking places of illicit distillation or places where these liquors are available. He is working the whole day and therefore the Harijan in every place is free from such temptation and it is therefore ultimately and absolutely in his own interest to maintain and continue the scheme of Prohibition at all costs by this Government.

"Touching upon the question of untouchability, Mr. Speaker, I would place before you, Sir, and the Members of this Assembly one peculiar fact, which is possibly not brought to the notice of the Government and which I do desire to bring to notice, that is, though untouchability has been removed from the bottom, unfortunately, I find some other castes and communities have dropped into the lowest level; and one particular class of people who are responsible for it are the zamindars about whom a number of things have

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been said in the Assembly in the past. I do not propose to repeat what has been said against them, but I am only interested in saying that zamindars in some places are responsible for keeping down some of the men in the lower strata of society who are just a little above the Harijans in the social scale in which formerly the Harijans were kept. Members of the Assembly may be interested to know the fact that in a place in Tirunelveli there are a number of streets which formerly belonged to a temple which is situated on a rock. There are four streets all around it and they are used as public streets. But, because of some peculiar claim advanced by the zamindar of the place, he contended in some of the courts that he had the right to shut out members of the public who did not belong to the higher castes. And he was successfully preventing Harijans from passing along those streets. They are not very clean streets; they are streets which are used by the pigs, and the lowest of animals that one can imagine. Sir, a few years ago the Harijan was not allowed to pass along the streets, but now because of these various Acts which protect the Harijans, the zamindar prevents certain other people who are just in rank above the Harijans from using the streets for processions of for carrying dead bodies and other such processions. It is thus very strange that the zamindar, in the year of grace 1951, should adopt such tactics and try and seek to enforce it in a court of law. I shall not say anything more about that. My only idea is to draw the attention of the Government to the existing conditions.

"Then there is, I think administration of social justice with or without reference to economic justice. Looking at it from this point of view, the question of relationship between the labourer or the landless one, and the proprietor of the land or the landowner, arises and in connection with this matter, Government has done what it could. His Excellency's Address refers to the Land Revenue Reforms Committee and the various recommendations of that Committee and that some of them are to be brought forward in the form of a Bill before this House shortly. The various findings of this Committee certainly go to establish justice between these two sections. It is not a case in which the landowner is sought to be removed as we find in the history of the Soviet Government in its dealings with the Kulaks, who are the landlords of the day, or the bigger farmers corresponding to our mirasdars. So far as the landowner himself is concerned, there are certain benefits and rights which accrue as a result of the scheme. Provision is made for the fixing of a minimum price. Crop planning is adverted to as one of the things which the State must enforce. But, in favour of the labourer and the landless one, there are a number of other provisions which I will merely state as I have no time to discuss them in detail. There is provision for maximum holding for the landowner. There are also various restrictions on keeping waste lands by the landowner. As a result of these laws, certainly the labourer or the landless one will be allowed to have lands available to him.

"Again, I would like to mention only one thing, and that is the question of housing for the agricultural labourer in the State.

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That is indeed a major matter on which the Government has been bestowing thought. Particularly in the Tanjore district as a result of the dispute between the landowner and the landless labourers who have settled on their lands a lot of trouble has ensued. I am sure all that is within the knowledge of the Members of this Assembly. I am sure the acceptance of the principle adumbrated in the scheme will reduce the friction that is existing between the landholder and the landless labourers. Then again, the question of supreme importance in the adjustment of the relationship between the landlord and the tenant is the fixing up of fair rent. It certainly is a benefit that enures to the tenant, as the findings of the Committee stand.

"Then, Sir, the Report of the Committee suggests various other means by which the income to the landlord can be increased, so that ultimately the landlord will not be a loser. In dealing with this subject, I wish to refer to an important Act which was in the anvil of the Legislature when I first joined this Assembly in 1948 and that is the Bill relating to Estates Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari, which occupied the time of the Assembly for quite a number of days because of its importance. The zamindari estates were abolished as a result of that Act. So far as the inams were concerned, the inam estates were divided into two—the pre-1936 inams and inams which came into existence as a result of the 1936 Act. So far as the previous inams were concerned, they were included as inam estates within the meaning of the Act for purposes of being taken over by the Government and that involved an enquiry by a group of settlement officers appointed to determine which constituted inam estates as stated in the Act and the Members of the Assembly are aware of the enquiries that are going ahead before the settlement officers and the appellate tribunals which are going into the appeals. Now, Sir, during the discussion on the Estates Abolition Bill in this Assembly, a promise was really made on the floor of this Assembly that the question of 1936 inams would be taken up as early as possible. I am only reminding the Government how the people are anxiously waiting for the taking up of the reform, for one reason that these inamdars who are now out of the Act are trying—to put it shortly—to loot the property of the persons who are really entitled to the profits or the uses of the land. In dealing with the question of justice—social, economic and political—I feel it is proper that I should make a reference to the attitude of this Government towards the minorities. Minorities were nervous and from my experience I can assure this House that they have not ceased to be nervous. I would only refer to two incidents just to throw light on the attitude of the present Ministry towards problems affecting the minorities. So far as converts to the minority religion were concerned, there were certain rules which were in force even before this Government came into existence. Those rules operated to the disadvantage of the people who were changing their religion. Now under the Constitution people throughout the length and breadth of the land enjoy the privilege of following their religion, practising

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their religion and promoting or propagating their religion. Therefore, it is only just and fair that when conversion from one religion to another takes place it ought not to affect the various administrative conveniences that are available to individual members to whichever community they belong and no distinction ought to be made between race and race, creed and creed, caste and caste. I must, of course, congratulate the Government on the small things they have done whenever conflicts arose in respect of these matters. About eighteen months ago there was some decision of the Director of Public Instruction. I believe, the effect of it is based upon some interpretation of the previous Government Orders that when the Harijan renounces the Christian faith and comes back to the Hindu fold, he is entitled to all the benefits which this Harijan scheme makes it available to the ordinary Harijan. When an Hon. Minister visited Tirunelveli about eighteen months ago, a small party met him—not for asking from him any favours. The leaders of the Christian community met him just to pay their respects to him. They were not anxious to make any requests to the Hon. Minister, but the Hon. Minister came forward and asked them if there was any matter on which the Christians would like to make any request to him. Then they complained about the Government Order which has now been referred to by me. It was as if it were an open invitation to the poor members who were once Harijans and Harijan converts to Christian faith, to come back to the Hindu fold saying that if you come back to the Hindu fold here are the advantages, A, B and C, available at the moment of conversion itself. The leaders pointed out that it was wrong in principle and it was contrary to the Congress faith itself. The Hon. Minister, though he was not in charge of the department, took that representation and placed it before the Hon. Chief Minister and the Minister concerned, that is, the Hon. Minister for Education and other Ministers. Then the Government Order was revised and a new Government Order was issued. As a result of that, if a Harijan is re-converted from the Christian faith to the Hindu fold, he is not in a position to secure all the advantages immediately, but he will have to wait, I believe, for a period of five years before he could be treated as entitled to all the advantages that are secured to the Harijans. Indeed the minorities and the Christians in particular are under a debt of obligation to the Government in respect of the matter.

"There is yet another matter. Hon. Members of this Assembly are aware of the fact that there are a large number of educational institutions throughout the State run by managements belonging to minority communities, particularly the Christian minority. Boarding houses are attached to a number of such institutions. Sales Tax was collected from them, though they were not making any profit. The matter was represented to the Hon. Minister and he dealt with the representation in a fair manner. He realized that such boarding houses did not make any profit and passed an order exempting them from assessment to Sales Tax. The members of the Christian community acknowledge with thanks the fairness with which the Hon. Minister dealt with the problem.

12 noon.

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"The most burning question of the day is food. I need not spend much time over it because it is going to form the subject matter of a debate shortly. It is also a very controversial subject and I need not enter into it. Hon. Members will have to bear in mind the fact that our Government have to act under instructions from the Centre and also the elemental forces like the Godavari flood and other difficulties in the way of securing sufficient food, particularly rice.

"I need not refer at length to the rationing policy of the Government. It was the persistent request of the majority of the Members of this House to deration the rural areas. The Government conceded our request. I assure the House that rural derationing has done immense good in many places, though difficulty is experienced in certain places. Seasonal conditions in some districts have been very bad; in some places people have not got the means of purchasing rice, wheat or millet even if we carry it to their very door. This is a pitiable condition. The Government cannot afford to give doles to them. But they are prepared to render aid if non-official agencies come forward to open gruel depots. Tirunelveli is one of the districts in which non-official agencies have opened gruel depots. The Governor's address says that in seven districts where the people have not got the means of purchasing food, gruel centres have been opened for the supply of gruel by non-official agencies supported by Government aid. There is no room for complaint so far as other districts are concerned. If people in the other districts come forward with contributions for the charitable purpose of helping the man in need, certainly the Government officers will readily co-operate with them to relieve distress and suffering.

"The Governor's address refers to the crisis in the handloom industry. We are grateful to the Government for the steps they have been taking to improve the position. Though their attempts have been successful only to a certain extent, no one can question the fact that the Hon. Minister for Industries and the other Ministers have been doing their very best to secure sufficient yarn to meet the requirements of the handloom weavers throughout the length and breadth of this State.

"Controls have to be looked at from the point of view of equal opportunity to all sections of the public. The richer section may command finance and other facilities. But the Government are there to help the poor in securing the necessities of life like food and cloth. Only on this basis the policy of control can be justified."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—"I rise on a point of order."

SRI P. A. THANGASWAMI NADAR:—"I do not yield."

MR. SPEAKER:—"As hon. Member Sri C. M. Kothari is rising on a point of order, the hon. Member should yield."

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SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—"Controls are meant not for equity among the people but for the greatest good of the greatest number."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not a point of order at all. Let the hon. Member Sri Thangaswami Nadar continue his speech."

* SRI P. A. THANGASWAMI NADAR:—"My guess has proved true. I wish that hon. Members interrupt me only when they feel that there is a genuine point of order.

"My feeling in regard to controls is—I am prepared to share that feeling with others—that the Government are hesitant in exercising the utmost power that lies in their hands. We know how certain North Indian States dealt with blackmarketers. They handcuffed and paraded along the streets even rich merchants who evaded control orders. Our Government have not gone to that length. A Bill was published for introduction in this House which among other things proposed to compel blackmarketers to put up notice boards in front of their shops announcing that they were blackmarketers. Because hon. Members of this House expressed their opinion against it, the Government dropped the Bill. I can assure the House that the Government are doing their best. The Anti-corruption Department and the Anti-blackmarketing Police are doing their best to bring offenders to book, rich or poor irrespective of their status in life. Recently—I am not sure whether the news was published in the Press—they have been taking action under the Preventive Detention Act in respect of blackmarketing offences. I am sure it will have a deterrent effect in preventing blackmarketing. I congratulate the Government on the steps that they are taking to put down corruption. From the information published in the Press, we find that a number of officers against whom charges of corruption have been proved have been dealt with severely.

"Coming to the irrigation policy of the Government, it is not necessary for me to dilate upon it as this Assembly is posted with all the facts. I must not fail to refer to one outstanding achievement of theirs and that is the raising of a loan for the Manimuthar Project and the extension of its benefit to areas not contemplated originally. Hon. Members are aware that the scheme, as originally conceived, was only for supplementing water for the wet area of the Tambraparani basin. Representation was made to extend the benefit of the scheme to the dry area as well and the Hon. Minister readily agreed to consider it. The scheme, as now contemplated, will supplement water not only for the wet area but also supply water to the dry area such as the Nanguneri taluk.

"The Governor's Address refers to the introduction of a Bill enabling the levy of a betterment fee. When the Manimuthar scheme was under contemplation, the people of Tirunelveli willingly offered to pay a betterment fee calculated on a particular basis. So it is not as if the fee is one which is imposed on the people. We thank His Excellency and his Government for the steps they are taking to implement the programme."

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"Hon. Members are aware that about 13 electricity undertakings have been acquired by the Government as part of the nationalization scheme. I am sure it will not only add to the coffers of the Government but also to the convenience of the people who are complaining at the differing and high rates prevailing in certain areas.

"Coming to law and order, I will divide this into two headings, namely, legislation and the maintenance of order. It is not necessary for me to quote actual instances but it will be enough if I refer to the masterly way in which the Hon. Minister for Law has acquitted himself in bringing various Bills before this House. No one can deny that those Bills are intended to serve nothing but the public interests."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has already taken more than thirty-five minutes."

* SRI P. A. THANGASWAMI NADAR:—"I require only five minutes more, Sir."

"Only in furtherance of securing the equality of status and of opportunity and the dignity of the individual and the unity of the Nation which are assured to every citizen by the Preamble of the Constitution of India, certain Bills have been passed by this House. I would particularly refer to the Madras Hindu Bigamous Marriages Prohibition and Divorce Bill (L.A. Bill No. 6 of 1947). Hon. Members are aware that Indian marriages are not recognized as valid in certain foreign countries because of the absence of monogamous nature in them. The passing of that Act deserves appreciation from the international point of view. Certainly the Madras Government can claim credit and praise for passing that Act.

"The Hon. Minister for Law deserves congratulations on the separation of the judiciary from the executive which scheme is in operation in a number of districts.

"Within the time at my disposal I cannot say anything more. I can only say that looking at the performance of the Government from various points of view, they deserve nothing but congratulation. I assure the minorities that nothing will be done by the Government derogatory to their interests. Christians and other minorities certainly appreciate the way in which the Government have been discharging their duties. The record of the Government is clean and open. Under all heads the Government deserve congratulation. Let us hope that in the coming elections the party in power will come out with flying colours once again to adorn the the Treasury Bench of this august Assembly."

12-15 P.M. BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Sir, I wish to make a submission. Since I find that the number of speakers on the motion will be few and those who will be speaking on the amendments will be many more, may I request you to extend the discussion to two days instead of limiting it to one day which you have allotted."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall have a talk with the Leader of the House and then say."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Hon. Members can go on speaking till 5 o'clock, and I will reply day after to-morrow. We have already lost one day yesterday."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Let us see how the debate progresses."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Although there are 60 members in the Council, they have allotted two days. We are 214 in this House and we allot two days. We require one more day."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The number is 213. The hon. Member should not include the Chair."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"Sir, as suggested by your good self, we shall consider the suggestion to-morrow. Let us not decide one way or the other to-day."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Until the contrary is decided, we shall stick to the time table, that is, we go on till 5 o'clock, to-morrow."

* SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel it a pleasant duty to second the motion of thanksgiving moved by my esteemed colleague Mr. Thangaswami Nadar. Thanks are certainly due to His Excellency for addressing us in a long and a fairly detailed speech on what his Government have been doing and propose to do in the near future. I do not know if I would be in order if I depart from the conventional 'praise-giving' and indulge in some well-intentioned criticism. We have indeed made some progress. At any rate we have laid some sure foundations for rapid progress. Considering the times we were in and the difficulties that the Government had to face, this is no mean achievement. It would not be vanity, I suppose, Sir, if I claim, as a Congressman, that any other Government of any pattern would not have done better in this short span of years in the reconstruction of a shattered country like ours. In the field of irrigation and power generation the Government have indeed done a good job. They have done so in other spheres of activity as well. We are told that in the next two years a million more acres would receive water supply. Power generation will be doubled. So far so good.

"The note given to us, along with a copy of the Governor's Address, contains in a nutshell what this Government propose to do in the next five or fifteen years with regard to electricity and irrigation. It is said that the 15-year programme includes the Krishna and the Godavari river valley projects which have been investigated in detail in consultation with international experts. But I see only the Krishna-Pennar project is mentioned. It is true that I am an advocate of the Krishna-Pennar project, because

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JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"If that is to be so, what will happen is this: a certain number of Members who will speak to-day will be prevented from speaking on the amendments to-morrow. That would be affecting their rights to refer to the amendments. I would therefore request you to give your considered opinion on this matter, viz., that you will kindly give an opportunity to all Members to speak on both the main motion and the amendments, and that you will not be dividing the House into two groups—which will be artificial."

MR. SPEAKER:—"There is nothing artificial at all. There will be only two groups, viz., those who support the Government and those who do not. Apart from that, it is a convention in many parliaments. I have acquainted myself with the practice obtaining in Canada. First certain days are allotted there for discussion of the Address and then separate days are allotted for discussion of the amendments. In Australia too the same procedure is followed. I am not after all blindly following the convention here. I am having an eye on the practice in other countries. In Canada especially they are very particular that when amendments are moved, members speak only on the amendments and not on other things. This is included in the Manual of the Canadian Rules. In England, Members debate the whole speech as if they are debating the Budget, but in Canada, as I said, it is not the case. In Canada, Members must particularly refer to what is stated in the Address itself. So, on the whole, I think that what I have suggested is the better way, i.e., one day for the Address and another day for the amendments separately. I do think this is the better way of discussing the Address."

"Hon. Member Mr. Thangaswami Nadar will now continue his speech."

11-30 a.m. * SRI P. A. THANGASWAMI NADAR:—"Sir, I may make some preliminary remarks here. My remarks are justified by the anticipation that has arisen regarding the various amendments which are tabled for discussion. Everybody expects us to look back and review the performance of the Government during the past four and a half years of their period of office. There is no other test that appeals to my mind than to look to the Constitution of India. We have to look to the Constitution of India and see what is expected of the State Government as distinguished from the Central Government and the limitation of their powers in the Constitution itself. As an illustration one hon. Member has raised the question that this Government has done nothing to bring to pass that the tillers of soil become owners of the land. I stop here and ask the hon. Member."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order."

* SRI P. A. THANGASWAMI NADAR:—"We are Members of this Assembly and we are within the four corners of the Constitution. Members who have familiarised themselves with

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the Articles of the Constitution will agree that there is no provision in the Constitution to discuss the question raised by some members here. It might form a plank in the policy of a particular party to raise it outside this House, but the framers of the Constitution did not seek to adumbrate it in any one of the various Articles of the Constitution, framed by the united voice of the people. Similarly regarding the pressing on the Government for the formation of the Andhra State at as early a stage as possible, I might add that there is no provision in the Constitution which entitles this Government to bring about such a reform."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"On a point of order, Sir, You were pleased to state that amendments could be moved to-morrow and that to-day's discussion would be confined to only thanksgiving. Now, Sir, the hon. Member is speaking something about the amendments which have not yet been moved and he is trying to answer those amendments and to-day we won't be permitted to speak. I am sure, Sir, that the hon. Member would be asked to confine himself to thanksgiving of which he seems to be so fond of."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I submit, Sir, for your information and for the information of the House that, on a former occasion, you yourself were pleased to allow Members to move amendments formally on the same day?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"No. On the previous occasions also amendments were moved only on the second day."

* SRI P. A. THANGASWAMI NADAR:—"The salient features of the Constitution have been laid down mainly under the heading 'Fundamental Rights' and the 'Directive Principles of the Constitution.' We are guided by the application of them. I may ask whether there is no need for thanking His Excellency on the achievements of his government during the past four and a half years which is of primary importance and of the utmost significance to most of us. The question is one of Justice, Social, Economical and Political. In the application of this principle the first importance is to be attached to the performance of the Government regarding the question of Harijan welfare. We realise that the whole community can rise only if every part of it rises to an appropriate level and it is there that this Government have in the past by a number of Acts which have been accepted by this Assembly had done a good deal to alleviate the sufferings of the Harijans and to remedy the injustice that has been meted out to them in the past. The Temple Entry Act and the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act are the two main Acts that have been passed for the said purpose and we realise the great benefits, the great advantage that the Harijan community has attained as the result of the application of these two Acts. Their self-esteem and prestige has risen to a considerable extent due to this. Besides the application of these two Acts, the State Government has done a good deal in its administrative capacity to promote the interests

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Rs. 150. I am in complete agreement with that idea. The Hon. the Finance Minister is looking pleased at me when I say that. But I am going to tell him in the next breath that I am in favour of it not as a revenue measure but as a measure of social justice. In the same breath I want to say that small holdings paying Rs. 10 or less must be exempted from taxes of all kinds, at any rate from land tax, and that people paying less than Rs. 30 must have a partial rebate. Some people may think that I am speaking in a less responsible way. It may be that they think this is a vote-catching speech or device. (Interruption.) But, as my hon. Friend says, they do not agree. It is not a vote-catching device, Sir.

"Then, Sir, the other thing which I am in complete favour of, is the levy of betterment fee on lands that are going to be benefited by the irrigation schemes. The subject has been long before us both in the Assembly and outside and not only do these hon. Members generally support it but the ryots themselves in several parts of the country have been offering their little contributions if schemes in their locality are taken up. But I would make one suggestion to the Government in this behalf. Levying this betterment fee on a percentage basis, i.e., at a rate not exceeding 50 per cent of the unearned increment as is proposed, may in actual administration lead to many difficulties because every plot of land will have to be valued and that will give rise to misunderstandings and difficulties. Therefore, I would request the Government to consider whether a levy of about Rs. 250 or Rs. 300 per acre on cultivable lands and about Rs. 150 or Rs. 200 per acre on other lands in hilly tracts would not be possible. Because, if it is a flat rate, it will be easy to work out the amount of tax and it will not lead to misunderstandings or misgivings. So, I would earnestly appeal to the Government, when that matter actually comes up before them, to consider seriously this proposal of mine.

"Now, Sir, we are on the eve of elections. New parties are springing up. His Excellency the Governor has assured us that there will be free and fair elections in the State. Sir, the hon. Members in the Opposition will have to thank His Excellency for that statement, and also the Government for that. In that connection, hon. Members in the Opposition may be assured that what is said here will be cent per cent implemented. I would make one suggestion in that regard. Roughly we have an idea regarding the polling stations in the whole country; we are told that in many places people will have to walk some three miles to reach the polling stations. We all know that 50 per cent of the present electorate are women and for these women to walk three miles from their villages to the polling stations will be a pretty difficult affair. Therefore, I suggest that in any village, whether it be a hamlet or main village, where the number of voters will be enough for one polling booth, there must be a polling station. That means to say, if there are 750 voters in any particular hamlet or village, for that particular village there must be a polling booth so that we can afford full facilities to the voters. We want that all women,

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young and old, should exercise their franchise. We are very anxious about it. Hence, we must give all convenience to such people to cast their votes.

"One word more, Sir, and that is with regard to our food administration. I have been for a long time a member of the State Food Advisory Committee, but it will be surprising if I tell you that I have not spoken more than once in that Committee. I think, Sir, that most of the members of this Government, probably all of them, are people coming from villages. They know the inherent difficulties in the system of food distribution at the moment especially in villages. I want to say broadly that this Government must pursue a more imaginative and more real policy with regard to food distribution. I am anxious that this Government should reduce their commitments as far as possible. Instead of having a huge responsibility themselves, they could exclude certain portions consistent with their capacity and responsibility and see to it that the other deficit portions are well-fed. I do not want to say more on this matter because I am told that the Leader of the Opposition or the Leader of the Independent Group was asking for a two-day debate.

"Sir, if I want to praise the Government or if I want to say many things for which the Government really deserve praise, there are umpteen things both in the Address and in past records but I, being a Congressman, do not want to go on indulging in some praise which, though well-deserved, may seem to the hon. Gentlemen opposite to be out of place. That is why I have refrained from that sort of thing.

"I am glad I have been given an opportunity to second the thanksgiving motion and I thank you also, Sir, for giving me full time to speak."

MR. SPEAKER :—"Motion moved—

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in the following terms :—

"May it please Your Excellency,

"We, the Members of the Madras Legislative Assembly beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the Address delivered to both the Houses of the Legislature."

* SRI C. M. KOTHARI :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with a distressed mind that I rise to speak to-day because in spite of my efforts to whip up my enthusiasm, I do not find anything which is constructive or productive in the record of the State of Madras. Sir, while we are crying for more food, shelter and other elementary needs such as clothing, these four years of administration have not in the least given us any protection in these respects. The Grow More Food campaign has proved to be a costly failure."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—"May I appeal through you, Sir, to the Government whether, during a

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general debate on this matter, they will not consider the advisability of asking as many Ministers as possible, if not the whole lot, to be present here? The Hon. the Leader of the House may be upset by my suggestion, but he must realize that there are criticisms about many departments in a general debate like this. No doubt, the Leader of the House is capable of dealing with all the points raised but in that case eleven Ministers need not function; one Minister can function for the Government of Madras. Of course, I have no right to ask them to be here. I am only suggesting that, during such an important debate, they should be here. At least, some Ministers, say 4 or 5, can be present here."

* SRI C. M. KOTHARI :—" Sir, I was telling the House how the privations and sufferings of the country are continuing in spite of the four years' regime of this Ministry. We have neither food nor housing accommodation nor clothing. Belonging as I do to the textile industry, it may be said that it is due to the fault of the textile industry that there is not sufficient cloth for the people in the country. We are here to say to this House that it is due to a fault of this Government and not of the industry at all. In the earlier stages of 1947, we were given something like 320,000 spindles for installation but unfortunately these additional spindles were allotted to persons who had neither the requisite finance nor the know-how of the industry. The result is we have lost a great deal of production and the handloom weavers to-day say that there is dearth of yarn. Even now, if the Government have the courage to go to the Central Government at all, the situation can be remedied. There is a way out and that is this.

12-45 p.m. " We produce on an average 45,000 bales of yarn per month and under the All-India Distribution scheme, we are given only 22,000 bales of yarn, the balance being taken away for distribution elsewhere. Under the All-India Distribution scheme, we get only 17,000 bales of cloth. In spite of the fact that we manufacture 45,000 bales of yarn, we get only small quantities of yarn. So also in respect of cloth. The Ministry here has not taken into consideration all these facts. Why not the Ministry tell the Textile Commissioner or the Central Government that the yarn and cloth supplied to us are most inadequate? Why not they say that if the entire production of yarn here cannot be retained for local distribution, the cloth requirements of the people at least must be met in full? To-day, we are given yarn and cloth in dribbles.

" I find in the Address of His Excellency a reference to the imposition of new taxes in the State. The reason mentioned for it is that money is required for National Planning. Reduction of taxes is the crying need of the hour. We have a feeling that the incidence of taxation is so heavy now that any addition to it will adversely affect the tax-paying capacity of the people. Sir, we have been asking for statistics as to how much each man pays to the Government by way of direct and indirect taxes. But the Government have not cared to hold such an economic enquiry, simply because it does not suit them. They feel that they can go on adding to the incidence of taxation. It is time, therefore, that an enquiry committee is appointed to find out the capacity of the

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individual to pay taxes, how much he now pays, etc. Such an enquiry will certainly reveal how heavily the people in this State are taxed.

" Sir, there is reference in the Address to reduction in the cost of administration. We have seen that whenever we come to the question of retrenchment, whenever we ask the Government to effect retrenchment, the Government are reluctant to do it, saying that it is a huge problem and that it will result in unemployment for many. I feel that if retrenchment is effected, we can bring down inflation. The Ministry is afraid of such a course because they feel the consequent unemployment might cost them votes at the elections.

" With reference to the loan mentioned in the Address, I am sure the Hon. the Minister for Finance is aware that the conditions in the open market are not good. The loan that may be floated by this State may not be a failure. I wish it were a success. But at the same time, we have to proceed in the matter with great caution. We must find out first whether the time is propitious to approach the people. But the most important point is that it has been the practice with the Hon. the Minister for Finance to run away from his obligations after getting the loan. This is what happened last year. I was one of those who told the Minister to back up the market so that the confidence of the public might be restored. But as is so common with the private individuals, he also got the money and said, I do not care; you go to hell."

MR. SPEAKER :—" ' You go to hell ' ? I should go to hell ? ' (Laughter.)

* SRI C. M. KOTHARI :—" No, Sir. I meant the investors. This kind of indifference and apathy makes the investors apathetic towards the loans floated by the Government. It is necessary for the Government to find out the peculiarities of the market. They must know the idiosyncrasies of the investors. The Government must meet them somewhere so that it may be easy for them to get the money they want.

" As regards the development schemes of this State, I wish to point out, and I am not alone in this criticism, that they do not take into account the capital resources of this State for financing the schemes. As Mr. Gorwala observes in his report, it is most unrealistic. The criticism he has made is in respect of several other States but it can be well applied to the plans of this State.

" There is one more point with which the country is most directly concerned and that is the new levies proposed by the Government on agriculture. I do not know why the destinies of India to-day are dogged by evil. Otherwise, instead of lightening the burdens on agriculture, it is really shocking to note that the Government proceed with new levies. It is indeed a pity that without fixing a standard rate which has been recommended by the Subramaniam Committee, the Government have seen fit to give effect to the taxation proposals of the same Committee. The

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Government want to take advantage of the various levies recommended by the Land Revenue Reforms Committee without implementing the provisions beneficial to the peasantry.

"In the end, I may say that a sign of frustration is being seen all over the State. While prices are mounting up, the common man is not able to get his elementary needs like food, shelter and cheap cloths. Let me hope, however, that before long all these will be remedied. But there is one thing. We, on the Opposition, have been taking the horse to the brook to drink but the donkey of the horse does not want to drink."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :— Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me begin by saying that the Government, who have been faced with many problems, particularly the food problem, should have convened this Assembly at least two months earlier. These are not those specious days of 1920 when the Assembly used to meet once or twice a year, having a few sittings extending over four or five days. Times have changed. We met and dispersed in April and since then things have taken different shapes. It is, therefore, proper that we met some time earlier. Sir, the Leader of the House said that reference could be made to the Food problem while discussing the Governor's Address. May I draw the attention of the Government to their own admission that the food position is very bad? I regret to say that much attention has not been bestowed on this question. We are glad, however, that there is a prospect of a day being allotted for discussion on Food on a motion to be made by the Hon. the Minister for Food. The responsibility of a Government is varied. The responsibility of the Government to the people in the matter of food has now become more pronounced. The food position has become very difficult in the last few years. We realise it. But what prevented our Ministers from telling the Centre that they have failed in their duty? Every Minister in Bombay and Bihar has said this in most unambiguous terms. But here is our Minister who says that against ten lakhs of tons of rice asked for by us, the Government of India gave us a hundred bags and the supply has been distributed among the people equitably! Has our Food Minister impressed upon the Central Government the urgent need for help? How many times has he visited Delhi in the last five or six months? Sir, the other day when we put a question on the floor of this House why imports from Burma could not be permitted, the Hon. the Minister said that the Government of India were not in favour of such a step. But soon after, the Food Minister to the Government of India went to Burma and negotiated a rice deal. There is still plenty of rice available in Burma. After our deal was put through, Ceylon has purchased her full requirements of rice, nearly four lakhs of tons. Our rice portion of the rations has been reduced from eight to six ounces. I do not want to say anything about this. Suffice it to say that I was glad when the Government announced the restoration of the original cut and made it eight ounces. We are told that the overall commitment of the Centre so far as we are concerned is ten lakhs of tons of which only two lakhs will be rice. Is that

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sufficient, I ask. What prevented the Government from convening a special session of the Assembly to protest against this decision of the Central Government then and there? They must act at once and see that all our needs are met by the Centre. Sir, I saw certain figures published in the newspapers about prospective arrival of food from foreign countries. I do not know if the figures are correct. It is said that the Government of India will shortly get 127,000 tons of rice. I say that the entire quantity should be placed at our disposal. Out of the two lakhs of tons promised to us, I understand that 75,000 tons have already been supplied. Besides, the Government of India must be told that their supplies must be increased. The same report says that the Government of India have so far imported 478,000 tons out of an estimated purchase of 983,000 tons of rice. They are yet to get nearly five lakhs of tons of rice. Our Government must ask the Government of India at once to allot at least half of this quantity besides the commitments they have entered into already. The Government will be failing in their duty to the people of this country if they allow things to drift further. Let Mr. Munshi come down here now and he will realize the position. They disregard our protests. The Government of Madras are not pulling their full weight. I have said this *ad nauseum*, and I am not ashamed or tired of repeating it now.

"It is particularly unfortunate to see the damage caused by 1 p.m. floods in West Godavari district. Some of the district boards have had to incur great loss of revenue. The Government must realize all this. I think it is all the more necessary that the Government of India must be told of all these. They must be told to sacrifice a little more. Why should not the Government of India ask the wheat-eating people of the North to sacrifice some of their rice diet instead of asking us to sacrifice our rice portion? You have been talking of an Indian Union under the leadership of one Member, one Party and in terms of one Nation. And you are also anxious to implement these proposals in time to come. Why not tell the Government of India that it is not possible to ask us to reduce rice portion and be content with mixed diet? I know the poor wage earner has not got enough money to buy even the meagre rice portion. Even the so-called lower middle classes, I mean the clerical staff do not have enough money to buy rice. If they want to prepare wheat dishes what about oil, ghee and other things? I know that you have not increased their dearness allowance. When such is the case what is the good of the Central Government asking us to take to non-cereal diet? I read in the papers a week or two ago the Union Food Minister saying that we must be content with non-cereal diet for some time to come, as do the Anglo-Indians. But is it possible for people whose staple food is rice to give it up and take to non-cereal diet? One in ten thousand persons may be willing to do that. Now, what can one do with 6 oz. of rice? I shall not talk about the 6 oz., because there are some Members who are more capable to speak on it. That is a different matter. What prevents the Hon. Food Minister leaving tonight for New Delhi by air and

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seeing that Madras is given more rice. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar had been deficient in the matter of food. Stocks were rushed there. What about Madras? We are friendly with Burma. By the long-term agreement which the Government of India have entered into with the Government of Burma, only 12½ lakhs of tons of rice shipment have been secured. It is certainly not impossible for the Government of India to get something more from the Government of Burma or the Government of Thailand. The Government of Burma, so far as the Government of India is concerned in the matter of rice, have been extremely friendly though they were not so in the matter of compensation for land. I am however glad to note that the Prime Minister, who is bold to admit his mistakes, has admitted that the talk about self-sufficiency is pernicious. He has stated that we must continue to import foodgrains till our target for food production is reached. I shall not go into the matter of food-production now. But what prevents the Government of India from entering into an agreement with the Government of Burma for the supply of some more rice to this country?

"Next, Sir, I come to American wheat shipment. No doubt we thank the Americans for exporting wheat. Seven or eight months would elapse by the time the shipment arrives here. I am sure that in the months to come the people of Madras will stand up and say: We want no more of American wheat. Then what about the storage facilities for the wheat to come? Take for instance Tiruppur. A *mandy* man, for example, will buy stocks worth some fifty thousand rupees. He has room for that. Suddenly, he would be asked by the Tahsildar to buy stocks worth some five lakhs more. He has not got enough money ready at hand. He goes to the Imperial Bank or the Indian Bank for money. That would involve delay. By the time such large stocks are released for consumption, they would have deteriorated. We must have large storage facilities. Sir, I emphatically say that but for the persistent request of the Members of this Legislature on a previous occasion, our temporary enhancement of food ration would not have been effected. In the matter of the American wheat shipment, Sir, we are running into difficulties. Therefore, I am pressing that our Government should take a long-term view of the situation and tell the Government of India that they should enter into a long-term agreement with the Government of Burma for more paddy. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure Sir, that the Government of Madras have failed to make effective representation to the Government of India in regard to our food problem. We realise, Sir, that the Government of Madras have not been able to do much, owing to circumstances beyond human control. Hon. Minister for Food has got enormous patience at his disposal. But patience would not solve this food problem.

"I do hope, Sir, that the voice of this House in protest will be heard at the Centre so that they may realize the gravity of the situation here and import extra rice from the Government of Burma and that our Members in the Central Assembly which is in session will work for us there.

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"Sir, the next subject with which I will deal is the question of the Report of the Planning Commission and the part the Madras Government have to play in it. The Madras Government have landed themselves in difficulty by tinkering with it. They propose to spend about Rs. 137 crores now, whereas for the entire fulfilment of irrigation development they will be requiring rupees 200 crores and that is why further taxation is resorted to. I shall not talk about the Planning Commission report now, which is under active consideration by the department. I trust that the Planning Commission will do something tangible and that something good will result.

"With regard to the taxation proposals, Sir, the betterment levy will be as much as 50 per cent of the betterment value. Then where is the question of betterment? We are just on the road to recovery. Now comes the 50 per cent betterment levy. You may pass an Ordinance or legislation by a majority of this House. The people will suffer. Sir, with regard to the increased levy on holdings paying an assessment of over 150 rupees, the hon. Gentleman Sri Vedaratnam Pillai who comes from Tanjore will tell the House what he feels. I am not an expert on matters relating to agricultural problems.

"Coming to the proposed tax on commercial crops and other taxation proposals, I only say that I regret the decision. That will restrict the growing of commercial crops. We have been saying that we must have full statistical figures about commercial crops before we think of taxing commercial crops. After all, elections are to come within a few months. Why has this proposal for taxation been brought just on the eve of election? If I were the Finance Minister of the Government of Madras, I will leave at this stage all the taxation measures in the pigeon holes of the Secretariat. Why this House should be asked to legislate on this new taxation measure when the elections are just about to commence? Why not the new Assembly debate on this question of taxation?

"Then I come to the proposals of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee. That Committee's report has just now been published and we are receiving numerous objections to it from all quarters. The report is presumed to proceed on the basis that you are trying to do good to the tenant, but the tenant is not going to accept the basis. I am not an expert on the subject, Sir; but even as a layman, I feel that there are many complications created. There have been in this country, and particularly in South India, reports of many distinguished committees and distinguished commissions and officers' reports on this subject during the last fifty years. I consider that perhaps it is time that a new Commission is appointed by the Government to go into all those previous reports and to prepare a synopsis and a report out of those reports. Anyway, we are not concerned with the land problem just now as a whole; on the other hand, we are taking only one or two aspects of the land problem such as the betterment tax levy, etc., and trying to tackle them. The Hon. Minister. I am glad, has rightly come forward with a statement which is

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sure to allay public apprehension. I hope that the Hon. Revenue Minister will take the opportunity, while replying to the debate, to assure the people that they need not be scared away by the report, that all criticisms and all opinions received from the public will be welcome and that the publication of the two parts of the report was done with a view only to ascertain public opinion, particularly in view of the fact that the coming few months is the time when the electors and the candidates standing for election will move closely with each other, so that the Government may be in a position to know the real opinion of the people. If the Hon. Revenue Minister will come forward with such an assurance, I am quite sure it will allay the feeling in the public mind to a great extent. Before any substantial land reform can be undertaken, questions such as a surcharge on land revenue, the incidence of an agricultural income-tax, the levy of an estate duty, etc., will have to be considered in great detail. I submit that it is very unfair to the public just at this time to take up only one or two aspects of the land problem and try to deal with them.

"Sir, we all know that Government are very anxious to pass a resolution of consent so far as the estate duty levy is concerned. I am not going to take up the time of the House in speaking on that subject, because I know this is not the place where the question is to be decided. The question will have to be considered, in dealing with the estate duty, whether such a thing will be in accord with the existing Hindu and Muslim personal laws, as also the question whether it will be suitable to Eastern countries or to the Indian community. I know there are many expert jurists who know more about such things than myself and it is therefore for them to consider whether it is worthwhile for us to have such a duty in this country at this juncture, to be levied either by the Government of India or by the State Government. And, assuming that you come to the conclusion that such a duty is worthwhile, then the question will again arise of the advisability of having legislation for the purpose by the State itself, so that we may collect the duty ourselves instead of giving that power to the Government of India now, and then trying to get a portion of it as subvention from them."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Let the hon. Member go into all these details when that resolution is actually moved."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Yes, Sir; I shall do so. As a matter of fact, the Estate Duty Bill has not been introduced so far in the Parliament at Delhi. I am sure it will not be introduced in the near future, and they have not got the time even. I want the Hon. Revenue Minister to tell the House to-day whether he has been informed by the Government of India that the Estate Duty Bill is going to be introduced in the Parliament in September or so. If that is going to be done, I think it is time for us to discuss the subject more fully; but I know pretty well that it is not going to be introduced in Parliament. I know that various individuals and parties have made representations to the Government of India that it is a very huge measure, that opinion is sharply divided on many points, and that it is very

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necessary that in a democratic country more time should be given to the Parliament to consider such legislation. In saying this, I am only paraphrasing what hon. Mr. Mahabir Tyagi has said in his statement, viz., that the Government in a democratic country do not want to be undemocratic. Therefore, Sir, I say there is no chance at all of the Estate Duty Bill coming up before the Central Parliament in the near future. In such a case, how tactless it would be on the part of the Madras Government to pass a resolution welcoming such a measure? No doubt, we all know that such a resolution will go through when moved; but I do submit that it is time for this Government to consider the question more deeply and decide once for all that the resolution must not be moved at this juncture. This is not a matter of prestige at all, especially because the Bill is not to be moved by the Madras Government in this House. Let them therefore write to the Government of India even now and ask them whether there is any prospect at all of the Bill being considered next September or October in the Parliament and let them come forward with the resolution only after it is definitely known that the Bill will be so considered. In the meantime, nothing will be lost, and the resolution can be brought forward at the next sitting of this House.

"I have already said that it is not expected of this House to deal with many of the problems that have been referred to in the Address. Why did not the Government bestir themselves all these four years in respect of all these matters? I submit it is most unfair to this Assembly and unfair to the public to bring up all these subjects just before the elections. I trust, Sir, the Government will agree that there can be no question of prestige so far as the interests of the country are concerned.

"Next, Sir, I should like to say that in the Address I should have very much welcomed a reference to the housing problem, the cloth prices, the yarn position and the weavers' position. These four important things have not been referred to at all; you may change the order of preference among them, but in my opinion all of them are very important. I do hope that in the reply to be given by the Hon. Minister, we will be told what the Government propose to do in regard to these four matters. As regards housing, what is it that has been done since we met here last April? Again, as regards cloth prices, they have no doubt done something with regard to the finer variety, but what about the coarse variety? Then again, what about the yarn position? It may be easy to say, no doubt, that it is not the concern of this State. I submit it is not so. The Madras Government must have participated in the discussions on this subject with the Government of India, and they should have convinced them that the distribution of yarn in this State should be more rational and immediate. The mills have not got the necessary capital and even the Banks have not got the money to give; I am sure, Sir, that an experienced person like my hon. Friend Mr. Kothari will endorse my statement that the position is becoming more and more difficult.

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"I am glad to note, Sir, that we have been assured by the Hon. Minister that we will have an opportunity to speak on the food position, and I am sure the Hon. Minister will give us greater details at the time of his reply. We all wish the best of luck to this Government in their attempts to feed the people, to house the people and to clothe the people; we also sympathise with the Government in their difficulties. For instance, what can the Government do when we are faced with such calamities as the lack of rains or even floods? But still, I ask: what prevented them from banging at the door of either the hon. Mr. Munshi or the hon. the Prime Minister? Only a few days ago we were told that a representation would be made to the Government of India; but what prevents the Food Minister from going to Delhi now, summoning the 60 or 70 South Indian Members of Parliament and finding out methods of bringing greater pressure on the Central Government? As a matter of fact, I even suggested that I would withdraw my request for a special debate on the food position if the Hon. Food Minister would leave Madras tonight in order to meet the Ministers of the Central Government and the Madras Members of the Parliament there."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Why not the Chief Minister?"

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Oh, yes; if the Chief Minister goes, we can be sure of greater success. Why I did not suggest his going to Delhi was that the Hon. Leader of the House would immediately say: 'How is it possible for the Chief Minister to go for everything?' That is why I suggested that the Food Minister should go. Again, it is not possible for the people in the Central Government to know the feelings of the Members of this Assembly, because in these days of shortage of newsprint, it may not be possible for the papers to report what all we say here. In that view also, it is better that our Food Minister should go to Delhi in person and make the best efforts to secure more food for our people. We know that the situation is going from bad to worse every day with regard to food. It is still not too late to rectify matters. We do hope that in the coming months, the Government of Madras will bestir themselves and it will be possible for them to feed our people with 12 oz. of rice and 4 oz. of other foodgrains. I know there is still rice available in Burma and you can easily get a few more lakhs of tons from there. If you tell the Burma Government that there is distress in this country, I am sure they will send us something. No doubt it is true that they may not send us all the rice that is available there; but still they would certainly send us something which will give us some relief."

"In this connexion, let me make it clear, Sir, that whenever we talked of food in this House, we have never criticised the Government. I can give you that assurance. We are all equally anxious that our people should be fed and that is why we make our suggestions now and again, and everything that we say should not be taken as criticism of the Government. We have

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always been of the opinion that whoever is in charge of the Food portfolio, should do his duty by the public; and it is in that feeling that we have always dealt with the food problem."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Governor's Address is really an address on policy. It is a common practice in every democratic country when the Assembly comes to meet or when Parliament comes to meet, that Government state what they propose to do during that session and what their policy will be in respect of urgent matters requiring their attention. The custom in England is that the policies mentioned in the Address are debated and even a vote is taken, if it becomes necessary, to test the soundness of the policies. It is in that spirit, Sir, that I propose to speak to-day on the policies mentioned by the Government in the Address of His Excellency to this House. It is our duty to comment on those policies, rationally support them if possible, and wherever clarification is needed, ask for it here and now, so that there may be no mistake hereafter. So far as I can see, Sir, the Government have mentioned three very important matters in the Address. The first is food with reference to future planning to make up the deficit in this State. The second is: how to meet the expenditure of that plan; and the third is a general reference to existing conditions of employment and distress, particularly among hand-loom weavers. There is also a passing reference to legislation about inams and the like; but I do not propose to deal with them in my speech to-day."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may continue after lunch."

The House then rose for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"I fix a time-limit of 20 minutes for each Member."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was just going to take up the question of the plan and the means of financing the plan. Critics of the Government ought to be able to say one of two things either a cut in the plan itself or alternative sources of revenue to the sources now pointed out by the Government; otherwise all criticism would be fruitless. Regarding the plan itself, may I point out that the plan is an all-embracing one; it includes agricultural development, irrigation, electricity projects, industries—major and minor—transport and social services, such as education, health, housing, etc. Reference was made to the supposed absence of reference to the lack of housing in the items mentioned. If only the hon. Gentleman opposite had looked into the plan he would have found that for housing there is a provision of three hundred lakhs of rupees in the next five years. It means not that the Government will spend all the three hundred lakhs for building houses by themselves, but on housing schemes partly assisted by Government to the tune of three hundred lakhs on the whole. Sir, whatever be the nature of

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the programme, one thing must not be forgotten, that it is all one and integrated. You cannot cut agriculture and get to food; you cannot cut the projects and get to food or agriculture; you cannot cut the social services, for without them the prosperity that you intend to bring would only be an empty prosperity.

(At this stage Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

"If that is understood, then the question is only the size of the plan. Is it right for this State to spend 137 crores of rupees in the next five years on the plan? I think, Madam, these figures may be subject to constant revision in view of fluctuations in prices, availability of material, long distance contracts being taken into consideration. Unfortunately, we have to find money first before we undertake grandiose programmes. It is a hard reality. It would be empty promise to go before the electorate with grandiose programmes without finding the means or the wherewithal to implement those programmes. Let us tell the people frankly what we propose to do and how we propose to effectuate the plan. If, for instance, we went to them blank on the ideas of fresh taxation or the like and simply propounded a plan, I say it is a disingenuous method of tackling the problem. It would be cheating the public, because they know that this Government will live from hand to mouth, with no plan whatsoever, but yet as the exigency demands, resort either to new taxation or give up taxation and go back on our policies to which this Government is irrevocably pledged, such as Prohibition.

"Now, Madam, let me look at the way of financing the plan. I will here tell the Hon. Finance Minister that the plan is really being financed by us and at least 60 per cent of it from revenues. This is a fact that must be realised. Though the sources are shown as withdrawal from Reserve, surplus from deposit transactions and possible economies in expenditure, all this really means that we are finding money from past or present or future revenue. The reserves are ours; it was taxation levied years ago and kept in reserve. So, the plan is to be really financed by us, from existing and new taxation and the assistance from the Centre which is estimated at Rs. 30 crores. I would therefore like this Government to press this aspect of the case on the Planning Commission as well as on the Government of India and make it at least certain that half of what goes from the revenues of this State to finance capital expenditure would be the assistance from the Centre. It is a very good arrangement. It is an offer of which they should take advantage. We propose to float our own loans, of course, with the assistance of the Government of India, but the responsibility for repayment of these loans, for creating sinking funds and all such things primarily rests with the State Government, and the State must finance all these transactions. This is for the Hon. Finance Minister to note.

"Now, I would like to develop the argument in favour of additional taxation. If we have to carry out the plan, we have to tax ourselves and we must tax only such sources where the money

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would be forthcoming and where the ability to pay rests. If you accept the principle of new taxation and apply it to the country, I can say with confidence that the only people who have surplus money today, to any extent, may be small or great, are those who grow what are called cash crops—I would not call it commercial crops. Cash crops are those that fetch money as against food crops, which are grown and partly consumed by the producer. A subsistence crop is one thing and cash crop is wholly another. Let me frankly state here that those who grow groundnut, even at the reduced prices today, chillis, tobacco, turmeric, plantains, sugar-cane—not so much in the matter of cotton because cotton is controlled—they are getting a net income of at least twice as much as the grower of paddy and other cereals. That is true of the rural areas. No, says my hon. Friend here; that is a matter for enquiry and if such an enquiry is conducted, I am sure the result will show that those who grow cash crops make more money and so they must pay a trifle more. I shall not develop this argument at this stage; when the Bills are taken up I shall go into more details.

"Now, let me take up only one subject. It is the betterment fee. Those who are awaiting water to irrigate their lands, the soil of which looks up not merely to rain but to a steady and unfailing supply of water from sources where rain-water would be conserved, surely they know their plight. Let me take the House into confidence in respect of one matter. In a terribly famine-stricken area, the Dharapuram-Udumalpet tract, months ago leading ryots went round collecting betterment fees even in the absence of a law authorising such a collection from every acre that was supposed to be benefited by a project which they indicated. There had been failure of monsoon for four years and even this year there has been no gleam of hope for them. Yet, they mortgaged their lands; some of them sold part of their property and then came forward with deposits of thousands upon thousands of rupees—even the poorest also came forward. Thus a total sum of six lakhs of rupees was given away as gift to the Government in order to induce them to recommend their project to the Central Government. Certainly, people in other parts of the country are not poorer than those of the Dharapuram taluk and six lakhs of rupees from a perpetually famine-ridden tract is not a small thing. The conduct of those ryots should serve as an example and I wish such projects were undertaken with speed and expedition, so that the enthusiasm displayed by them even in the hour of gloom may not be easily forgotten, but may become an example to neighbouring tracts.

"Let us compare their conduct with our conduct in raising petty little squeals about some little taxation. Whole properties pledged or a part of them mortgaged to ensure that at least the remaining properties may touch life from the water that the project promises, not immediately but perhaps after five or six years! Unless we grow more food, we cannot tackle the problem of prices. They are intertwined. It is no use raising a hoot that prices have gone up. We cannot have a programme for lowering the prices unless we increase production. Production cannot be increased

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unless there is a multipurpose programme comprising health, social services, agriculture, power projects, irrigation projects and the like. The food deficit cannot be filled up from office files or even by imports, though imports may go some way to relieve the situation. As the hon. Gentleman opposite pointed out, to-day we are unable to finance food imports and command the space and other facilities for storing and distributing the foodgrains to the four corners of the State. It is in this context that the importance of growing more food has to be realized. It is easy to say that the Grow More Food Campaign has failed. It must be remembered by big as well as small landholders that it is their duty to produce more if at all they can. Projects may take time. But aids to agriculture to those who can produce and who have the will to produce should be forthcoming without delay. A lot of routine delay occurs in the distribution of manure, grant of loans for sinking wells and deepening existing wells and in supplying machinery to pump out water from the wells. I would urge the speedy setting up of a servicing staff to repair the breakdowns in machinery. Government supplies oil engines and electric motors. When the poor ryot takes it to his farm in the hope that it will pump out water for his parched soil, it does not work. He wants the defects to be promptly remedied.

"I intended to speak about standards for our conduct. But I will have to leave that point out and pass on to the next point which, I think, is the most important one. That is about the handloom industry. No one has a clear understanding of the position. To-day the mills are producing five thousand million yards as against the three thousand million yards that they were producing four years ago. Handlooms which were producing one thousand million yards three years ago are producing six hundred million yards at present. The handloom is being pushed out of existence gradually and inevitably, as if ordained by fate. I suggest that a long-range solution to this problem should be devised. There must be a clear division of the varieties of cloth to be manufactured by mills, handloom weavers and the hand-spinners. Then, there would be co-ordination in the national effort. Otherwise there will be perpetual strife. I know this proposal will not be agreed to by the millowners in this or in other States. But we have carefully to examine the whole question because it is one which concerns the employment of a large number of skilled labourers who are being driven out from their traditional occupation to occupations where their skill is of no use or are rendered occupationless.

"One more word and I have done. The Congress must be able to place before the country all situations in a realistic manner. It should not run away from realities. Even if the imposition of additional taxes becomes necessary, the people should be told so. If the Congress has not that courage, no other party will have. It is said that Congress is the only party which can deliver the goods. How can we deliver the goods if we develop cold feet and begin to kick at the very solutions which we propounded? There are several evils in the country for which we are not responsible. We have

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made many mistakes in the past. But we must not make any mistake on this one thing that, there should be complete disclosure of our policies for the present and the immediate future and assurance about the execution of those policies.

"Madam, I earnestly commend to this House and to the wider public of this State this one word of counsel. When distress looms large, when rations seem to sink, when suffering stalks everywhere and when there is a feeling that we have not done the job, I say this is the time for us to assert, come out with rational and sound policies and programmes whatever their cost may be and execute them with courage, determination and faith."

* SRI L. C. PAIS :—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I support the motion and in doing so I may be permitted to say a few words. There is an American periodical known as 'The Coronet.' The 1950 January issue of that periodical starts with a very significant article which exhorts every American to take a resolution for the new year and that is: Don't criticize, think of the good that the Government has done, instead of bemoaning the little evil that exists in the land. This is the advice which an American was constrained to give to the Americans after America had secured and enjoyed independence for over 150 years. I do not want to suggest that there is no evil in our land; there is plenty of it. The five giant evils of poverty, disease, ignorance, dirt and squalor stalk the land. These evils were there even during the British Raj. They are still continuing. Blackmarketing and corruption flourish in the land and prices are daily soaring. The food question refuses to be solved. On the Independence Day, I happened to hoist the National Flag in more institutions than one. Everywhere I was asked where was the land of Canaan, where was the land of freedom overflowing with milk and honey which was pictured to us during the days when we fought the British Raj. A good deal of it is true. But the question arises—whether during the five years the present Government have been in the saddle, having regard to the fearful odds and the disappointing seasonal conditions they had to contend against and having regard to the further fact that, in spite of the best efforts of the Government, their policies are only just beginning to bear fruit, I ask whether any Nation or State could have done better.

"History proves that such a thing was not possible in other countries. In the life history of a Nation five years is too small a period to produce convincing results. In this connexion let me refer to the golden words of a great statesman T. B. Macaulay. Macaulay has written largely on democracy. I would particularly commend to you the following five propositions which he has laid down :—(1) Till men have become free for some time, they know not how to use their freedom, (2) it was only after they have enjoyed their freedom for some years they arrive at the mature fruits of freedom, namely, wisdom, moderation and mercy, (3) in the meantime, they reap the immediate fruits of freedom, namely, error, corruption, scepticism and dogmatism, (4) it is just at this time that the enemies of the Government exhibit themselves fully,

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(5) if people are to wait for freedom till actually they arrive at those mature fruits of wisdom, moderation and mercy, they will have to wait so long that they can get neither freedom nor its fruits.

"We lost our freedom just about the time America regained it. American history can be divided into two periods, the first period ranging from 1750 to 1850 and the second from 1850 to 1950. What were the difficulties facing America in 1850? As a great American historian has put it, the United States of America in 1850 was a disintegrating force. Eleven States were about to secede. A civil war threatened America and the population of America was not more than thrice the present population of New York. There was slavery throughout the land and the public school system had not reached half the population of America. I have referred to the conditions of things as they were found in America after 100 years of home rule. Can any one expect a better record here in India than what has been set up within the four and a half years of freedom?

"What did the Americans do? They resolved to unite themselves into a Nation conceived in liberty and founded upon the broad proposition that men were born equal. Their experiment to make their nation self-growing was a great experiment. The experiment succeeded wonderfully and we have the America of to-day—great in every respect.

"Are we self-growing or are we self-destroying, with the innumerable parties that have sprung into existence? And what is the kind of criticism Government has to contend with? I refer to what two of our great leaders have said. Sardar Patel used to say that we should not destroy the existing house before we have laid the foundation for another house. What we are trying to do is to destroy the existing house before laying the foundation for another house. Sri C. Rajagopalachariar has put it in more humorous language. He says all of us are engaged in building a big structure but even before we complete the structure of our house, some of us go to the housetop and shout that our house is haunted. He asks whether the house which we want to build will fetch the proper price if we ourselves proclaim from the housetop that our house is haunted. I do not want to say anything more except to reiterate that we have enjoyed freedom only for about four and a half years. During this period, the Government have been struggling against powerful odds and doing their best to safeguard and improve our position. The Governor's Address and the five years plan contain indications of the way and the manner in which Government have been struggling hard to improve our lot. We are thankful to the Government for what they have done. The Member who moved the motion of thanks is an Indian Christian and I, another Indian Christian, am supporting it. So far as the minorities in general and the Christian minority in particular are concerned, we may say with truth that we have got two of our most cherished freedoms—freedom of religion and freedom of education. We are happy to say that, in spite of a few minor lapses here and there, the Government are striving hard to respect

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the two freedoms. The task of the legislators in future will be to see that these fundamental rights are observed in the day-to-day life of the Nation. The majorities will not and cannot afford to forget that their strength and safety lies in the contentment of the minorities.

"The Christian minorities have one real grievance against the Government and that is in the matter of endowments that are insisted upon by Government in the case of schools opened after 1948. Fr. Patrao of Puthur and myself some time ago approached the Hon. the Finance Minister in this connexion and we found in him a sincere friend and sympathiser. He assured us that everything possible will be done to minimize the rigour of the rule. Action was taken immediately; the two schools which got the benefit of his kind intercession were a High School run by Fr. Patrao and another school run by the A. C. Nuns in Coondapur. More relief is necessary and we are not giving up the fight. The Indian Christians are generally on the side of the Congress and it is our sincere hope that good-will will beget goodwill in return. 3 p.m.

"I would like to make a few suggestions. As regards land reforms, so much is being done to-day to improve the condition of agriculture by way of schemes and plans. But in all these schemes one thing is forgotten—rather one person is forgotten, i.e., the cultivating ryot. The schemes centre round him but they have no direct reference to him. Nothing is done to safeguard his position; nothing is done to give him security of tenure. From 1946 onwards we were impressing on the Government this one thing, namely, 'you bring your reforms at your own convenience; but pending these reforms, give the tenant security against arbitrary evictions'. My hon. Friend Mr. Karanth who is present here will bear me out when I say how much we were struggling here for some interim legislation at the hands of the Government. But what is it that we find? Empty assurances that reforms are coming, and that something is going to be done. But nothing is done. I wish that our Ministers had not spoken on this point at all. Whenever they went to the mufassal, they assured everybody that Government was anxious to improve the lot of the cultivating ryot, and that Government will bring in suitable legislation to prevent their eviction, in the first instance. Because of these assurances, the landlords, apprehensive of their future have begun evicting tenants through court and otherwise. The necessity of introducing some sort of 'stay' legislation—temporary legislation—giving a sense of security to the ryots is as clear as ever.

"We were happy to learn that in Madras we are very soon going to have a 'Nira Parlour'—Sweet-palm juice parlour. Speaking for the mufassal and especially for those who were long accustomed to some kind of drink or other, I would say that this new scheme may be extended to the mufassal areas also. Palm juice is a food by itself and the toddy tappers will find some employment also. South Kanara is clamouring for sweet toddy and anything done in this regard would be immensely appreciated.

"I now come to the taxation proposals. It may be contended that a Welfare State cannot be maintained without proper taxation.

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This is a subject which can be usefully dealt with when the proposed taxation Bills come up for consideration. But we are against surcharge on assessment. I think the Land Revenue Reforms Committee has suggested that assessment on land should be standardized. This has to be done in the first instance. The existing rates of assessment vary from place to place, and they do not conform to any particular standard or basis. The recommendation of the Committee about standardization of assessments is very pertinent and very clear. There must be legislation to standardize assessments so far as the ryotwari holdings are concerned and this has to be attended to before you think of introducing a surcharge on assessment."

* JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—" Madam Deputy Speaker, we are indeed grateful to His Excellency the Governor for his Address. He is a born ruler, and in our State he is also a ruler of the hearts of the people. In his Address he has given a review, in brief outline, of all that has been done by his Government and also of all that his Government could not do or were not able to do. I would like first to endorse wholeheartedly what the hon. Gentleman Mr. L. C. Pais has said with regard to the urgent need for tenancy legislation in order to grant the cultivating tenants in the State security of tenure and an assurance of fair rent. These are very elementary things, and the minimum demand of the peasantry of this State. The matter has been pending for a very long time, and the Government do not appear to have taken any serious view of the matter so far. No doubt, as stated by His Excellency the Governor, some good things have also been done by the Government. There are always good and bad things, and there are credit and debit sides to the affairs of the State as well as to the affairs of any individual. Considering the situation as a whole, there need not necessarily be any wholesale condemnation of the present regime.

"The financial position is always difficult. Our Finance Minister always finds himself at the end of his tether, and now just at this moment he is faced with a greater difficulty so far as the report of the Planning Commission is concerned. He has to find Rs. 137 crores for the five-year plan. The Government no doubt expect some help from the Government of India. Our helpless Finance Minister has recourse to three ways for raising more and more money. First is more taxation. The second is more borrowing, and the third is retrenchment once again. These are very difficult problems for him. How to find the money, and where to find it? This will be a very difficult problem, unless the Finance Minister tackles it boldly and with courage. Certain legislation has been suggested or is going to be introduced very soon in the Legislature as envisaged in the Address. One of the items is to tax the cash crops, as they are called, which bring in a large income to a good number of people in this State. This is a proper thing to do. I think, and I hope, the Government will be able to get a good deal of money by taxing these cash crops to the highest capacity. On the other hand there is also the indication that assessment on lands is going to be increased. This may not be a

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very wise step to take. On the one hand we want that food production should increase and that all facilities should be given to the agriculturists and ryots. If we propose that ryots paying an assessment of more than Rs. 150 should be taxed more, it will mean putting an impediment in the way of greater production of food. In the ryotwari areas, the assessment is already too high, and it is also based on a wrong calculation, so far as my district is concerned. Therefore, any attempt to increase the land tax will be met with very stout opposition from the cultivating tenants and agriculturists who are responsible for the production of more food.

"Then I come to another thing. The Government can try to ferret out the blackmarketers. A good number of blackmarketers are there. The Government do not seem to take any serious step or effort to find out the blackmarketers and punish them severely. The Government should impose very heavy penalties and take as much money as possible from the blackmarketers. In that way the Government can fill their own coffers and find more money. This is possible also.

"When the Government are compelled to borrow money, they may go into the open market and try their luck. It is stated that the Reserve Bank will help the Government. We wish the Government good luck in finding more money from loans from the public. I hope the credit of this State still stands high in the money market of the country.

"The third thing is retrenchment. In this matter, I feel that a reduction in staff here and there may be possible. After all the saving effected by retrenchment will not be much. But many people will be sent out of Government service, and they will not be able to find employment anywhere. I do not think the Government will be able to make much profit out of retrenchment.

"So far as the educational policy of the Government is concerned, we find in the Address that the policy will be spread of basic education throughout the State and no other kind of education. If that is so, I do not know how far the Government will be able to succeed in introducing basic education throughout the State and by converting even the existing training schools into basic training schools. The idea is no doubt good. Basic education may be good in itself. The point is whether it will suit the present conditions and needs of the people. I would rather suggest that this experiment of basic education may be confined to a small area, say, one district or a small group of districts. If the results of the experiment are found to be quite good, and if by basic education the condition of the people is found to have considerably improved, it will be time then for extending it throughout the State. That is my suggestion so far as the policy of the Government to extend basic education throughout the State is concerned.

"With regard to the opening of more colleges, the State is not in a position to open its own colleges throughout the State. Therefore, as far as possible the Government would be well-advised to encourage private agencies to start colleges all over the State. The Government can give a good portion of the grants for buildings

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and equipment but more than what they are at present giving. If they should encourage private agencies in that way, I am sure they will not be put to the necessity of opening their own colleges and increasing their own expenditure. The Government will not be in a position to open more colleges in the State now but if they follow the policy I have outlined, I am sure in a very short time we can have a number of colleges throughout the State. Recently many private colleges have been started. A college was started the other day called 'The New College for the Muslims' and another college was started in Tiruchirappalli called 'Jamal Muhammad College'. If private agencies all over the State are encouraged with larger and more liberal grants, that will be a right policy and it will save the Government a lot of expenditure which they will have to incur if they run their own colleges throughout the State.

"Then, the main difficulty of the Government is in the matter of food. We can characterise it as a weak-kneed policy of the Government so far as the production, procurement and distribution of food are concerned. No doubt it is an All-India matter and the Madras Government may say that they are not in a position to do anything independently. Quite true; but have not this Government also been committing mistakes? Why did the State Government suddenly de-ration the rural areas? Why was it so ill-timed? It was introduced after the procurement of first crop was over. That created the whole confusion and the difficult situation that we are facing to-day. What happened was this. All the rice that could have been procured later in the rural areas disappeared. There was no check on the movement of rice from place to place and the poor people in the rural areas were unable to get rice at a reasonable price. Then what did the Government do? They started their relief shops here and there, but not everywhere. We know what a large number of people are residing in the rural parts. There are millions of people living in the rural parts and they all belong to the poor middle class and cultivating class. They are all hard-pressed to-day and they do not know how to make both ends meet, how to live and how to get enough rice to eat. The Government in their relief shops are giving only two ounces of rice and here also an invidious distinction is made. They say that certain classes of people should be given more rations and more than two ounces of rice and that others should not get as much as those favourite classes. That is an invidious distinction. After all, all are human beings. They have to live and they have got hunger. It should not be imagined that only certain classes of people are hungry and not others and that certain classes of people need more rice and others do not. That is a very unnatural distinction that the Government have introduced in society to-day and the people are, therefore, very much dissatisfied. A clerk may be working in the office for five hours whereas a labourer is working from morn till night in the fields or elsewhere, and if that labourer is given only two ounces of rice, is that fair? The Government should not have introduced that distinction; they should have treated all alike so far as food is concerned.

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Therefore, I submit, Madam, that the Government should at once give up this policy and revise their orders, in a manner which will be more humane and more just.

"Madam, there is one other point and that is the increase in price to which I have to refer. The Government have suddenly increased the price and decreased the rice content of the ration. That is very unjust. The Government should bear the loss and give the people enough rice at a reasonable price always. As His Excellency the Governor says in his Address, rice problem is our main problem in the State because we are rice-eating people. If the Government are not able to supply to the people rice in sufficient quantities and at a reasonable price, I do not think they have any right to exist. Food problem is the main problem for a Government and if they do not tackle it properly, it will go against the interests of the Government themselves. The time is fast approaching when they will be judged and weighed in the balance and the solution of the food problem is the main thing by which they will be judged by the common people, especially in the rural areas. Therefore, though I have great regard and admiration for this Government for having done many things in many fields, specially in the fields of irrigation and power projects and also in the field of agriculture so far as increase of production is concerned by way of distribution of chemical fertilizers and improved seeds, I should still think that the Government have failed in this most important and vital problem of food. I would even now at this late hour appeal to the Government to see that the people get enough quantity of rice and that at a reasonable price."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, the Governor's Address, at other times, might have been a stock-taking speech but this time it certainly is an Election Manifesto of the present Government. It is, of course, right that they issue it and they are also bold if not wise in propounding new taxes, at a time when the people are hungering for food, have no cloth, have no houses, and when production, according to the Economic Adviser and the agricultural authorities, has fallen and when the economic condition is at the lowest in every respect. In fact, I submit that this new taxation is not at all necessary.

"Madam, if the Hon. the Public Works Minister is anxious to produce more food in this State, he need not resort to big schemes which are not going to solve our food problem immediately. I have suggested once and I repeat it now on the floor of this House, on the advice given by some competent engineers, that immediately the entire area under the Krishna delta system and the Godavari delta system should be converted into a double crop area. That can easily be done by building at the higher reaches of the Godavari and the Krishna some barrage dams. They are certainly cheaper and they conserve more water. Some two dams may be built and each may cost about a crore of rupees or at the most two crores of rupees. They will certainly conserve the water necessary for a double crop and we can convert the entire Krishna delta area into a double crop area and also the Godavari delta area which is now under single crop can be converted into a double crop area.

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For that, you do not require new channels, new staff, new designing and new engineers. You need not go in for extra borrowing. These are suggestions which have been thrown out to the Government from time to time by competent engineers. I do not know whether the Hon. the Public Works Minister himself had directly applied his mind to the proposals or whether they were stopped at a lower stage without such proposals coming to the Cabinet or the Government, because there are jealousies among engineers and one engineer very often tries to suppress another engineer, and the net result is the people suffer. Similar is the case with regard to the Krishna Reservoir. Everyone knows that the Krishna Reservoir project is comparatively cheaper and more efficient and it would certainly solve the food problem of this State and yet the Krishna-Pennar Project is only dangled before our eyes.

"I am warning the Hon. the Public Works Minister as also the Hon. the Leader of the House that this is a scheme which bristles with hundreds of difficulties. Already there is much bitterness with regard to partition problems between the Andhras and the Tamilians. Hitherto we had not several difficulties on the question of projects because we had no common projects but the Krishna-Pennar Project. I am cautioning all Members who are agitating for the formation of the Andhra State, that this question of common projects is sure to create lots of problems in addition to those that have already been created. The Krishna-Pennar Project is, of course, favoured by the Hon. the Leader of the House and I think it is favoured also by some Members from Nellore."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"All the Members."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"But it is really not a project either for Krishna district or for Nellore district; it is a project for some other districts. If the Government are anxious to produce more food and give priority to productive schemes, they may launch on schemes which are comparatively better and which are more easy of completion rather than these schemes which are only Utopian schemes. I repeat that the Government should take immediate steps to convert the single crop areas under the Godavari and the Krishna delta systems into double crop areas. If the Government had taken care to take the advice of competent engineers and start the work, by now the dams would have been ready and they would have conserved the water necessary for the second crop. Then there is also the Vamsadhara scheme in Visakhapatnam district. The Lower Bhavani scheme costing about 7 crores of rupees is half-way through. It brings a lakh of acres under the plough."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Two lakhs of acres."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Yes, two lakhs of acres now; they increase the figure whenever it is necessary for statistical purposes or speech-making purposes. The Vamsadhara Scheme would bring under irrigation two lakhs of acres of virgin soil, if I may say so. For five years the Hon. the Public Works Minister

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has been engaged in working out the details of the scheme. I am drawing pointed attention to these things to show that the Government could certainly have some schemes that would immediately step up the production of rice. The Hon. Minister may give some answer but in a place like this where we cannot have cross-table conversation or ask for papers and look into them, it is easy for the Hon. Minister to say, 'It is like this. Competent engineers are against this scheme and that scheme.' But I do not look at it from the political point of view. I want all Governments, whether it is this Government or any other Government, to exist for the people, and I want these Hon. Ministers to look at the schemes from the point of view of the general welfare of the people. They may have their pet schemes but I would request them to just postpone their favouritism for some time and now take up comparatively better schemes which would give us more food immediately and which would be comparatively cheaper also. For the North Indian Ministers who are in charge of these projects, India does not exist south of the Vindhya."

(At this stage, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

To the Madras Government, the state does not exist north of the Cooum. Yet the only area which can be made productive and which is covered by the two most important rivers is the non-existing Krishna and the Godavari area. The Central Government there and the Madras Government here say; 'We are taking all necessary steps in the matter.' Just note the geography of our country and the area and the rivers which have been neglected by this Government as well as the Central Government. I once more ask the Hon. Ministers not to look at this from the political point of view but look at it from the economic point of view and from the point of view of the general welfare of the people. If they have not been properly advised hitherto by the engineers for one reason or other, it may be because the engineers might have had their own fads, or they might have been affected by politics—let the Hon. Ministers apply their minds a little more impartially than they are at present able to do, to this matter which I have often been pressing. Whenever we make criticisms like this, it is said that these are all linguistic prejudices. For goodness sake, let it not be said it is regionalism or linguistic prejudice. It is clear that the waters of the Godavari and Krishna rivers have not been fully exploited. Yet the little schemes which we have been able to implement in these areas have been fetching 16 to 20 per cent for the last forty years. Yet the Hon. the Minister for Public Works has been going from place to place and saying that hereafter we shall have to pay betterment tax because there are big schemes to be undertaken elsewhere. When it comes to the question of exploitation of the waters of the Godavari and the Krishna and the building up of new projects in those areas, comes the idea of betterment levy. This idea of betterment fee has never been entertained before in our country. Sir, when it is a question of making up loss on the Mettur scheme it is argued that the whole irrigation system of the State is one and the Krishna

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and Godavari schemes have to make it us. Yes, we agree the whole irrigation system is one. But then when there is to be a scheme in Godavari and Krishna areas, we are faced with what is called the betterment levy. I am definitely opposed to this levy notwithstanding the views held by the hon. Gentleman Sri N. S. Varadachari, who is the one person, a lonely person in this House, that supports any measure for increase in taxation. I do not think that the hon. Members opposite are agreeable to these measures of taxation. I do not know how far the Hon. the Minister for Public Works, how far the Hon. the Leader of the House and how far the Hon. the Chief Minister, who is generally absent from this House, are supported in their taxation measures. I am asking whether they have got any regard for public opinion. Have they any regard for the opinion expressed by their own party members? I know definitely well that a vast majority of their party members are against this legislation. They also come from the people just as I come from the people. This is certainly not the time for extra taxation. As I have been saying, extra taxation is not necessary to bring more lands under cultivation and to step up food production. This is a suggestion which I make. It is no criticism. Criticism the Hon. the Leader of the House may not mind, nor the Hon. the Minister for Public Works. Let them look into the suggestion and obtain the views of experts. For Heaven's sake let them not misunderstand me. Let them increase the area under double crop in the Godavari and Krishna deltaic areas. That will solve the problem of food. When our food position is all right and when our stomachs are full, the growing dissatisfaction against the Government and against the Congress will lessen a little. After all, we are anxious to grow more food and let us do the work in the right manner. Even the food which is available in this State is not distributed properly.

"Hon. Members have often pointed out on the floor of the House, year after year, every time there is a debate on Food—whether during the Budget session or discussion on the Governor's Address—that the distribution system is one of the worst systems. It is based upon favouritism. There is procurement which breeds favouritism. I need not say much about the efficacy of procurement. The less said about it; the better procurement is coloured by absolute favouritism. A number of cases have been brought to the notice of the Government by the Members of this House where no procurement was made because the gentlemen concerned were good, influential Members of the party or relatives of the Ministerialists. No rice or paddy could be procured from such people. Procurement, therefore, fails under the pressure of democracy under the pressure of Members who have to support the Government in its day-to-day administration and who on every occasion have to support the leader of the party. There is no proper procurement and there is no proper distribution.

"As one member has already stated, this rationing system has no rationale behind it. It fixes one price for one part of the

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country and another for another part of the country. In certain places people are given certain quantities and in others different quantities. Of course the Government always find a reason and an excuse for pursuing this kind of policy. They always find reasons for meting out differential treatment. The Government, if they are just, and impartial—I am using this word advisedly—they can certainly supply twelve ounces of rice to people living in cities like Madras and Visakhapatnam. The production figures show that despite the dryage, shrinkage and leakage in godowns, we are in a position to get twelve ounces of rice. We need not suffer with the six ounces that we get now. As I have already said, the reason for all our sufferings is partiality and favouritism. Favouritism has got to be practised, winked at and acquiesced in because we have democracy.

"I attack the present system of controls and rationing not merely on grounds of favouritism. I attack it because it is inherently impossible to control essential articles of food which people require every day—twice a day. It is impossible for the Government to have any just and equitable distribution especially when the procurement machinery is so very defective. We have always been urging, therefore, that Controls must be removed, that the restrictions on movement of grains from district to district and from taluk to taluk must cease. Now and then the Government tinker with the problem and make some sort of little adjustments which are only leading to worse troubles. The argument advanced in favour of Control is that when there is short supply, there must be Control. It is utterly wrong to say so. It is a slogan which is nice to hear. Controls as they are administered at present will not solve any problem. It only helps to create more problems and the remedy becomes worse than the disease. When the remedy becomes worse than the disease, it is much better that the Government become fully alive to the situation and meet it boldly. Controls enervate the people. They make the people useless for work in the present generation and affect the health of the future generations also. I do not know whether hon. Members have visited any hostels. Sir, I know the case of a hostel where the warden who is in charge of nearly a thousand boys is obliged to go into what is termed in modern language the open market and purchase rice at heavy prices. Of course we get good rice there in the open market and the hostel boys thus get good food. I would ask why pursue a system which is demoralising everybody. No honest man is able to carry on except of course persons like me who require very little quantity of rice. But the average man who is otherwise honest is not able to get what he wants. I want the Government to throw off this system. It is demoralising. It is corrupting. More than half of the corruption which is now prevalent among some of the merchants and officials is entirely due to the Government imposing an unnatural system upon the vast and innocent population of this State. If they want to put down corruption, if they want the people to live a natural and healthy life, they must make their best efforts to remove the Controls.

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"After all we are not totally deficit. According to the book printed and published by the Economic Adviser to the Government, which has been circulated to us, the average deficit of this State is only 2.75 lakhs of tons of rice. We are really importing this quantity. If the available supplies together with the imported grains, go round the State as they did prior to the imposition of these unnatural system of controls during peace time, there will be no shortage. I beg of the Government to apply their minds afresh to this problem instead of simply glossing over the issue. I want them to tell the Central Government and the Prime Minister, who seems to be unfortunately in favour of what is called 'planned life', how we feel in the matter. The Prime Minister is fond of planning; he is so fond of it that if we simply say 'planning' and offer him poison he would drink it. Such is his love for the term. This love of his is based on the opinions supplied by the various State Governments. If they have the interests of the people at heart, if they want the people to grow honest once again, if they want to resuscitate the standards of public life, let them casting aside their political and group interests, put their best effort and fight with the Government of India for the abolition of these Controls. If they do this, they will be doing the greatest service to the people. That would be much more than the schemes and projects that are undertaken by them. If they are interested in the good of the people, they must concentrate upon this and take the risk and get the Controls abolished for good.

"Sir, there is one more thing that I want to speak about. I am sorry I am exceeding the time-limit. We have always got a number of subjects to speak on and seldom do we refer to them all and that is the price we have to pay for our democracy. I want to say one thing on a debate like this. It is all very well to say we thank the Governor for the Address and for the various beautiful things he has mentioned in it. I must, however, point out that there is an amount of dissatisfaction in this State at the way in which the administration is run. Dissatisfaction may be due to so many reasons. I make bold to say that the primary cause for it is that this Government have been using their power generally only in group and party interests. We have often been saying this. I said it two years ago, three years ago and I am repeating it now. What is the use of repetition, one might ask. I say it is good such things are repeated. If an hon. Member's son passes the B.L. immediately he must be made an R.T.O. If an hon. Member gets his daughter married, his son-in-law must be made an Assistant Superintendent and later a Superintendent of Jails. Another Ministerialist gets his daughter married; his son-in-law again must be made an R.T.O. Such things are always happening. I am asking the Leader of the House who is here now whether this Government did not use their power for the purpose of election of the President of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee? It cannot be denied. A statement has been made that during this year another college has been opened in Srikakulam. It is good for us to have a college. We want it but, Sir, I am now touching upon a very interesting point. The

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opening of the new college in Srikakulam, though good in itself, was the result of group politics. I am asking the Leader of the House whether he is not aware of the fact that the College was promised to the people of the place only on condition that they should secure a certain number of votes for the Government candidate set up for the Presidentship of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The majority did not vote for him."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"None would have voted, if there was to be no College. Every district must have a college but they do not get—except at the time of Elections."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member's time is up."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I know, Sir, my time is up. I will wind up in a minute. I have no group politics. I am voicing sincerely what my heart dictates. I want God to give Governments light so that they may use their power in the interests of the people and not in group or party interests."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Gentleman who sat down just now, mentioned that the Address was an election manifesto. I think it is not; because the Ministry would not have been so unwise as to advise His Excellency to deliver such a speech in those words to both Houses of Legislature and a speech which gives no hope of any increase from 6 oz. rice but gives new taxation and that too on the eve of election. 2-45 p.m.

"Sir, I want at the outset to refer to one thing in His Excellency's speech, i.e., the law and order that is being maintained in the State. It is true that law and order is being maintained in the State properly. Now, Mr. Speaker, we are on the road to recover from the Second World War. Many countries in Asia, such as Burma, etc., are still struggling to maintain law and order. They are not able to check disorder internally. It is true, in our country, that we have maintained law and order; this is due, I can say, Sir, to the dynamic personality of our Prime Minister, the Hon. Sri Jawaharlal Nehru. Only on account of the prestige that he commands, we are able to maintain law and order. Sir, here I want to bring to the notice of the House some of the instances that we were able to find in the Police Department and in some other departments. Even there, there are blacksheep trying to behave in a disorderly manner and exhibit law-breaking tendencies. This is slightly developing in the minds of Police Officers and subordinates. I want to mention the incidents that took place in my district very recently. The house of the District Collector, who was camping out, was raided at 7 o'clock by an unruly mob containing some dowdy elements mixed with some police people. As a consequence thereof, the responsible officer (I do not want to mention the name of the responsible officer because the Government is aware of the whole report), reported this matter to the District Superintendent of

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Police who immediately suspended the Sub-Inspector and five constables. This is the position. If the police themselves raid an officer's house, what will be the fate of common people? Recently there occurred an incident in Theni in Madurai district and Police Officers in that place seem to be indifferent to it. This is how law and order is being maintained.

"Election is going to take place. Millions of people would be going to the polling booths. What will be the position if the Officers are maintaining this kind of tendency? I am not going to speak more about law and order. I am not satisfied with the maintenance of law and order in the State.

"His Excellency has mentioned about Land Revenue Reforms in his speech. I have not yet received the report. I have not been supplied a copy of it though hon. Members opposite have been supplied with it. I have had certain glimpses from the papers."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"You must ask for it and take it."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—"Oh! I am to ask for it. Is it? I want to say something, Sir, about the Land Revenue Reforms Committee's recommendations. My hon. Friend, Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillay was a member of that Committee. He has written a minute of dissent. Sir, we have had several reports of this sort. I was told, Sir, that even during the days of the Justice Party, nay, Sir, even at the time of Tippu Sultan a report on Land Revenue Reform has been made. I am of the view, Sir, that this is going to be a useless document."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—"Sir, on a point of order, I want to say this. The hon. Member just now said that he had not been supplied with a copy of the Report. Now he says that this is a useless document and says that he is not satisfied with it. Sir, I am satisfied with it."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—"Sir, there is no point of order. I have seen some of the summaries published in the papers which give some opinion. The main idea is that we want our land revenue problems to be solved. We are short of food-grains. Unless we have a drastic policy we cannot go forward. We must have revolutionary proposals to solve these problems. I do not think this kind of report can do anything to tackle the problem. I find from a Press Report, that the Hon. Minister for Public Works said yesterday that this Ministry is not going to implement the Committee's recommendations and that they will be taken only after the next election. If that is so, Sir, I am satisfied. Because, that new Government, I am sure, Sir, is going to be Congress Government. I am sure, Sir, that that Ministry will give some dynamic proposals, revolutionary proposals, to solve this agrarian problem. Sir, I am going to stand as a Congress candidate in the next elections in my district and I give a word of challenge that I shall surely win the elections: the Congress is the only party that can command a majority."

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Sir, is the word 'Challenge' parliamentary?"

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—"Certainly, Sir, it is parliamentary. The hon. Member himself has used it so many times. (Laughter.) Regarding the taxation proposals I want to say something. Take the case of the proposed tax on commercial crops. There are few people who have got thousand acres. But there are thousands of persons who are having five, four, two acres and even half an acre. This tax on commercial crops will only increase the sufferings of the poor ryot who is still struggling to make both ends meet. His Excellency also mentioned in a part of his speech about the betterment levy. I was told, Sir, that even from the earliest times I.C.S. Officers used to suggest this betterment tax. Even such reactionary Government did not think of levying the betterment tax at that time. During Raja of Panagal's time when the Justice Party was in power there was a proposal for the levying of the betterment tax. But the Raja of Panagal who was the Chief Minister at that time was not prepared to levy the betterment tax. What is the position now? This Ministry is going to levy that tax, and that too on the eve of elections. It appears to me to be strange logic. Take for instance a small village. A road is laid with the local contribution and with some Government help. The commercial importance of the locality gradually increases with the opening of commercial shops. The people in the locality become rich. Now the Government comes forward and says: 'We want to levy a betterment tax. Your prosperity has increased and you must be prepared to sacrifice out of the proceeds at least some 10 per cent for the levy.' I ask, Sir, is this proper logic? For instance in my district of Ramanathapuram, there was a proposal in this regard. I am glad that the Government have appointed a Special Officer for the said purpose. I would thank the Government for it."

"Coming to the Planning Commission report, Sir, I am sorry to note that my district's claim has not been included. The Kallaru scheme described to be very essential for the whole of Ramanathapuram district has not found a place in the proposed five-year plan of the Government of India. Even some eminent technical people have suggested Kallaru scheme is essential for the Ramanathapuram district. When I was last in Bangalore for the meeting of the All-India Congress Committee I noticed this omission. I am sorry to note that His Excellency has not been advised to grant the legitimate claim of Ramanathapuram district."

"I am also very sorry to see that His Excellency has not been advised by the Government to include the Ramanathapuram district when he specifically says that in the districts of Visakhapatnam, Nellore, Chittoor, North Arcot, Coimbatore, Salem and Tirunelveli the purchasing power of the poorer section of the people has gone low; that people there are struggling and that on account of that, they are opening gruel centres in those districts. If the Government have any first-hand knowledge of the conditions

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in the Ramanathapuram district, I am sure they would not have omitted to include Ramanathapuram among those districts. Since, however, Government have not come forward to help the people, some leading private citizens in the district are trying to solve the food problem, in consultation with the Collector by opening a few supply centres. I know that in some parts of the Mudukulattur and Ramanathapuram taluks, people are actually starving and their purchasing power has gone down very much on account of the failure of monsoons continuously for more than four years now. I trust, Sir, the Government will now at least find out why Ramanathapuram has been left out of the districts in which gruel centres are to be opened. When the Hon. Chief Minister himself hails from that district—and he must certainly be expected to know the actual conditions there—I cannot understand why nothing is being done for it. Even the Collector, I am sorry to say, seems to have failed to bring to the notice of the authorities the conditions prevailing in the district.

“As regards the question of backward classes, it is true this Government have set apart a decent amount for the provision of scholarships to students of the backward classes. I have always maintained, whenever I talked on this subject, that this is not a communal question or a class problem, but that it is an economic problem affecting a large section of the people of our State. There are millions of people in our State who are very backward; I am told in our State nearly two crores of people are very backward. No doubt some friends may differ from me and even the Government may differ from me; but let the Government give us details from the latest Census Report. But even that report may not give correct figures, because the census itself was not taken properly, and it created a lot of confusion in the minds of the officials who went from door to door to gather the necessary information. People were not properly advised as to what were the communities under which they should classify themselves. I therefore think, Sir, that the provision of Rs. 5 or Rs. 7½ lakhs for these backward classes is a mere drop in the ocean. It is not at all sufficient. The Government should allot a much bigger sum for the provision of greater and greater facilities for these backward classes.

“I shall conclude by saying, Sir, that I am not very much satisfied with the speech delivered by His Excellency; except perhaps with the ceremonial function which was very majestically conducted, such as His Excellency being led in a procession by the Hon. Speaker and Hon. Chairman, etc. I must say I am not very much impressed by the Governor's speech to the Joint Session of both the Houses of the Legislature.”

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to His Excellency for his very gracious Address. It was stated by some Members who preceded me that this Address is propagandist. It is no doubt true that the debate on the Address just before elections tends to be propagandist, and the speeches of Members who are in power and of those in the Opposition will necessarily be propagandist. But that is no reason why we should take exception to the Government making certain proposals for

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the future. It is a trite saying that although a Government may be going out to-morrow, it must legislate and lay down policies as if it is going to stay there for ever. That sense of duty must be inculcated in all parties and in all Members. Therefore to say that this Government whose tenure is going to *expire in a few months*, time should not lay down policies or programmes for the future, is practically to say that the Government should not discharge its duties conscientiously, duties which any Government worth the name should discharge. Again, it is an error of judgment to say that the programme chalked out now is a propagandist programme. Even at the risk of being put down as a person supporting Government, I may at once say that if the Government wanted to be propagandist and somehow get the votes of the people, they would not have mentioned the many things they have mentioned in the Address. For instance, they would not have mentioned that we are going to be taxed, or that the Government were going to put into shape the recommendations of the Land Reforms Committee, or that they were going to tax commercial crops more, and all that. Therefore, my submission is that so far as the Address goes, there is nothing wrong in it. Whether that satisfies the public or ourselves is however a different matter altogether. From the point of view of what a Government should do at this juncture, i.e., just before the elections, I cannot find fault with this Government for referring to so many things in the Address.

“Now, Sir, the first thing I would like to refer to is the position of law and order in this State. I am glad to be able to state that it has much improved. My only regret is that there is going to be a drastic retrenchment in the services, especially in the Police department. If at any time there is to be any necessity for keeping the Police department properly staffed and equipped, it is only now. In view of the coming elections and the possibilities of anything happening during the election period, there should indeed be an addition made to the Police personnel which keeps law and order. As I said, the law and order position is very much better now, thanks to the steps taken by the Government in the past. At the same time, I am bound to make this observation, knowing as I do how the administration that is being carried on in the mufassal, that the same sort of efficiency which prevailed some five or six years ago is not now found there. That is the general opinion of one and all. Responsible men have said that the efficiency of the machinery has suffered. You may have very good plans, very good policies and very good schemes; you may lay down very good instructions to mete out justice to one and all; yet, if the machinery is becoming weak day by day, you will not be achieving the end you have in view. That is the reason perhaps why in spite of the fact that this Government have been trying to overcome all difficulties in respect of food, clothing and housing, in spite of their laying down plans, policies and schemes, there are no signs of improvement. I can only attribute this to the inefficiency of the machinery through which the Government are working out their schemes. It is time, therefore, that the Government take note of this fact.

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"The next point I would like to refer to is the reference in the Address to the report of the Planning Committee. A note by the Chief Minister in this regard has also been circulated to us, and that refers to the five-year plan. The Planning Committee has stated that the Government should spend a sum of Rs. 137 crores, although they have already spent some Rs. 40 crores on Irrigation and Power. Whether the Planning Committee's report is helpful to us or not is not the question before us now. In all its wisdom, that Committee has stated that our State is deficit in so many things and therefore it should spend Rs. 137 crores on particular schemes; irrespective of whether the expenditure of this Rs. 137 crores is going to confer any benefit or not, the Government seem to be bound to spend the amount in the course of five years. They have already spent about Rs. 40 crores out of it, and so they will have to spend another Rs. 97 crores in the coming five years."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Rs. 137 crores is apart from the Rs. 40 crores already spent."

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"I am sorry. I should think, Sir, that our fifteen years' plan is very much better. It is admitted that there is no State in India which is so badly hit as our State, on account of lack of food. We have been discussing this matter *ad nauseum*, and I therefore do not propose to say anything now, except to make a request to the Government, to bear this in mind: 'What have you produced during the past four years, by all means at your command, to ameliorate the condition of the poor people?' You must be in a position to understand where the defect lies."

4-15 p.m. "Sir, some people say that there is food deficit in this State while some others say there is no deficit, but that distribution is wrong. However, there is no gainsaying the fact that the machinery is rotten. There are some others who say that there is deficit, and added to that the distribution system is wrong. I think the third view is correct. Now, Sir, if the Government have not been able to do anything or move an inch forward all these four years, it is time they take a serious view of the matter, and as the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Swaminathan, has suggested, there must be some radical change in our outlook. I do not mind your taxing the rich in order that there might be a Welfare State wherein the conditions of all may be improved. I am not one of those who say that the poor are being taxed and that taxation will certainly hit them very hard. It is not so. I know it as a matter of fact. I belong to a district which is producing commercial crops, instead of producing paddy which they were producing all these years. Now hundreds and thousands of acres are being sown with sugarcane, tobacco, turmeric, or groundnut, where only a few years ago they were producing paddy. Wet lands also are now being utilized for growing tobacco. I should think that Government must take note of all these things. The position now is that hundreds of acres which have hitherto been growing paddy are being used for cultivating turmeric and such other commercial

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crops. If the Government feel that they are incapable of stopping this I think they can resort to the Emergency Powers Act which they passed a few years ago."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No."

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Yes, you can resort to the Essential Supplies Act, Section 3, according to which you can regulate the growing of this crop or that. So, unless there is a constitutional objection for restricting the raising of commercial crops in the place of paddy, I think the Government should come forward with a Bill for that earlier. It is not that I am opposed to the growing of commercial crops, because they are no doubt dollar-earning and will bring in more money to India. True. But these are extraordinary times. What if for at least another five years they are not grown? The Heavens are not going to fall. After all, there may be some adverse balance of trade. Therefore, I submit that the Government have failed to take proper steps in the matter."

"Now, Sir, about the projects. I should be failing in my duty if I did not press on the attention of the Government certain projects that have been taken in hand or are proposed to be taken in hand and executed, according to the Address and the Note, circulated and tell you how most of the Andhra people are disappointed. They are very much disappointed. What is it that the Government propose to do with long-term projects? As regards the short-term projects, there are of course some small irrigation projects and they are no doubt beneficial. Thanks to the Hon. Minister for Public Works. But, in regard to medium-term projects, I am sorry to say that the Government have failed. For instance, the Pulichintala project is one such. I cannot call it a long-term project. Our long-term project is the Ramapada Sagar project which may come into existence, say in ten or fifteen years, by which not only the Andhra districts but even the whole State will be benefitted. Now this Pulichintala project is what may be termed a medium-term project. It will not cost after all more than five or six crores."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Forty crores."

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Forty crores are less than a third of the 150 crores required for the Krishna-Pennar project. But this small project can be completed in two years, whereas the Krishna-Pennar project will take about ten years in two stages of five years each. Therefore, my submission is that this medium-term project, the Pulichintala project, will benefit lakhs of acres of the uplands of the Krishna and Guntur districts and may be taken up now. I want to know, what have you done? Not that I am opposed to the Krishna-Pennar project. What I say is, after taking up and completing the Pulichintala project and if it is feasible to take the water you may do so and you can even take the waters of the Krishna to the ends of the earth; we do not mind it; it is not as if I am selfish; but the immediate need is for the medium-term projects any therefore they should be executed,

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so that you may have immediate results obtained in two years. It is only a question of damming and I am told the scheme is already there. There is already a rumour afloat about the Pennar project and I do not know how far it is true and it is for the Hon. Minister for Public Works to contradict it. They say that the waters of the Krishna will not be sufficient for both the Pulichintala project and the Krishna-Pennar project. But, if the rumour is true, both as a matter of equity and justice, the Andhra people, through whose country the Krishna is flowing, must have the benefit of the river water first. And, if over and above the Pulichintala project water still remains—if the rumour is wrong—we are not going to be selfish and it can be taken to Madras and other Tamil districts. In this connexion, I read the note of Mr. Ramamurti Garu which makes the position very clear. I also read two or three other pamphlets which have been distributed.

"I shall now repeat what I have said four or five times before. There is what is called the Budameru, a mischievous small rivulet, which has been doing havoc. About two years ago it killed scores of persons and on account of that rivulet, lands are inundated; I mean, lands which are otherwise fit for cultivation get inundated and no cultivation takes place. On the other hand, if you harness it, so much of land which will be inundated will be saved. I request the Hon. Minister for Public Works to hear my representation in regard to this matter. The first thing is so much of land which will be inundated can be saved and secondly, if you harness the waters of the Budameru you can also irrigate thousands of acres of land. Further this Budameru falls into the Uppiteru and lands under Kolleru get submerged. I understand that while Mr. Venkatarama Ayyar was Superintending Engineer in 1912, there was this scheme and from that time no heed has been paid to the matter. And for the last four or five years I have been dinning into the ears of the Government to take up this project. When two years ago there was a flood, crores of persons and hundreds of cattle died and Mr. Kala Venkata Rao who was then touring in the place said that we are paying for our sins. Because Government have not done anything for the project, the result was this. If this had been done, they could not only have saved lives, but put the water into use and brought several acres under cultivation and also saved much of the land from inundation. Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity given."

* SRI V. KURMAYYA :—"Sir, I support this motion and while doing so, I want to bring to the notice of the Government some practical difficulties of the people and their feelings. I know they are undergoing so many difficulties."

"Sir, in the Address, His Excellency mentioned that his Government are doing a lot and that they are assigning lands free and also house sites for the Harijans. I really agree with the policy adopted by the Government, but I am sorry to state that the policy is not implemented by their officials. I ask the Hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to show how many acres have really

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been assigned to the Harijans in the last four and a half years. I also ask the Hon. Minister to say whether lands occupied by the Harijans during the last so many years—even from the time of the Justice Party—have not been taken away from them and given to political sufferers. Many of the hon. Members representing the Scheduled Castes and other minorities have repeatedly stated on the floor of this House that lands were taken away from the Harijans and landless labourers and given to political sufferers. I even today challenge the Government whether they can contradict this statement made by hon. Members on the floor of the House. Every day applications are pouring into the Fort. St. George to the Minister in charge of Land Revenue regarding their grievances and the injustices that are done by the officials on account of the influence of Congress leaders in the districts. I myself took some of the applications to the Minister for Land Revenue and the Minister in charge of Harijan Uplift, but the poor Minister for Harijan Uplift says that he could not interfere. He always says that he cannot interfere with the portfolio entrusted to the other Minister. No doubt, the Government have adopted a resolution in the Cabinet and issued instructions to the officials that the lands under the occupation of the Harijans prior to 1-5-1948 should not be disturbed. I ask the Government, through you, Sir, to say whether this policy or the Government Order is implemented. If it is implemented, I ask, why so many people come to Madras spending hundreds of rupees every time, with petitions to the Board or to the Government saying that the lands in their possession for years—not for one or two years but for twenty years—have been taken away from them.

"The lands given to the Depressed Classes during the time of the Justice Party Government should be assigned only to them. Such lands were not unfortunately assigned to the Depressed Classes during the time of the first Congress Government in which Sri T. Prakasam was the Revenue Minister on account of the ban imposed by the then Government. Several lands have been cultivated by the Harijans for years and years. The mischievous karnams and other revenue officials always try to oust them to give the lands to other-caste men. The Justice Party Government and the British Government had a definite policy. But our Government have no definite policy. Every M.L.A. can influence any Minister and get any Government Order amended. The Government issue a Government Order to-day and an amendment to-morrow. On behalf of the dumb millions I say that the lands enjoyed by Harijans for several years should be assigned to them. The Governor's Address refers to the assignment of lands to Harijans free of cost. I ask the Government to specify at least ten acres of land assigned to Harijans anywhere except in Tanjore. When I was a Minister and Sri Kala Venkata Rao was the Revenue Minister, he wanted to resume the land from the Harijans. I stood against the proposal like a rock and approached the then Premier Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar and the other Ministers in that connexion. Then it was decided in the Cabinet that no Harijan should be dispossessed of his land. After some time, Sri Kala Venkata

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Rao got another Government Order issued by the department providing for the giving of lands to politicals, dispossessing the Harijans and the landless labourers."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO :—" I rise on a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. Member right in divulging Cabinet secrets? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" He is not divulging any Cabinet secret."

* SRI V. KURMAYYA :—" The decision of the Cabinet was not communicated to the Minister for one year, though I was repeatedly fighting for giving effect to it. After the Cabinet decision another Government Order was issued to the effect that the lands enjoyed by the Harijans and landless labourers are given to political sufferers temporarily on the basis of a recommendation made by a committee appointed for that purpose such lands might be given to political sufferers. I requested the Government to get that mischievous Government Order amended. On account of this Government Order, a number of riots are taking place. In a village about four miles from Nellore a Reddi was killed recently. This same Reddi had killed four persons previously. He was influential and the rich ryots presented him with a gold chain of twenty sovereigns for killing Harijans."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The matter is *sub judice*."

* SRI V. KURMAYYA :—" No court is seized of the matter; only an enquiry is going on."

" The Collector, who was interested in the Reddis, went to the village with a posse of police constables and asked them to loot the houses and beat the women folk. Is this what a District Collector is expected to do? Then my hon. Friend Mr. Shanmugam and other Harijan leaders remonstrated with the Collector and sent telegraphic information to the Ministers and the Inspector-General of Police for necessary action. I am not blaming the Government. The policies of the Government in the field of Harijan Uplift are good. Only the officers who do not implement them should be punished."

" The Justice Party Government and the Advisors' Government were leasing lands to the Field Labour Co-operative Societies for a term of fifteen or twenty years at a time. For the last two or three years, lanka lands are leased to the Field Labour Co-operative Societies only on a yearly basis. I do not know what malicious intention there is behind this change. The co-operative societies have been enjoying the lease of the lankas for the last thirty years and more on a long-term basis."

" As stated in the Governor's Address, the food position in the State continues to be difficult. The Government say that they are trying with vigour and speed to secure food supplies to the people. Two ounces of rice are given in the rural relief shops and this quantity is very inadequate. People are starving on account of inadequate ration. It is not the rich and the big landholders that suffer; only the landless labourers and the low-paid Government servants and others suffer. In the hostels

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subsidized by the Government, only 6 ounces of rice are given and the millet portion is not supplied. I request the Government to see that at least the students staying in the Government-subsidized hostels and the hostels attached to Colleges and High Schools are supplied with the full quota of ration."

" There is blackmarketing everywhere. Who is doing this black-marketing business? The Government alone are not to blame for this situation. Every Member of this House, every Minister and every citizen of India is a blackmarketeer."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is not right in saying so. He must withdraw that statement."

* SRI V. KURMAYYA :—" Sir, I withdraw that statement."

" We are purchasing rice in the blackmarket, we are getting from secret sources. We do not depend only on the quota supplied to us. In that sense I said the everybody was a blackmarketeer. I do not want my children to starve with the six ounces of rationed rice. I am getting rice from the villages by secret means for my hostel. The Government must increase the quota of ration and supply foodgrains of a better quality. The Government are spending crores of rupees on irrigation works. What is the use of this expenditure when the land is not evenly distributed and the Harijan, who sacrifices his life by working in the fields is kept landless?"

" The Governor's Address says that free house-sites are given to the Harijans. How many house-sites were given during the last four years? I am grateful to the Government for the substantial help they give to Harijans and Backward Classes in the shape of free education, hostel facilities, grant of money for purchase of books and exemption from examination fees. But in providing house-sites, nothing has been done so far. In Madras City, Harijans have been living for hundreds of years on private land, in gardens like McKenzie's Garden, Muhammadan Garden and the Hall's Garden. At the time of their occupation, the land value was very low. The Government should acquire these lands at the then prevailing market value and assign them as house-sites. Cannot the Government acquire extensive plots in the City and assign them to poor people? I request the Hon. Leader of the House to examine what I say. Housing problem is very acute and the landlords, whose lands the Government are going to acquire, are opposing—and will even go up to the High Court to stop the acquisition."

" The Government have lost 17½ crores on account of prohibition and are spending 1½ crores on the ameliorative side and to enforce prohibition. Every house has become a liquor shop. The officers in charge of enforcement of prohibition are not sincere. I know that some officers are getting a regular monthly income from the manufacturers of illicit liquor and some of them also are drinking still."

" I am very sorry to see that the Government are going to introduce the sale of nira. Those who drink illicit liquor are

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 28rd August 1951.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Amendments to the Constitution.

* 11 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have suggested any amendments to the Constitution; and

(b) if so, what they are?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister):—“(a) & (b) The answer is in the negative.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that recently the Constitution was amended particularly in order to give some scope to the State Governments to see that Scheduled Castes and other weaker sections of the people got their proper quota either in recruitment to services or in admissions to colleges? Have the Government suggested any amendments to this effect?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“With regard to the former, we are aware that the Constitution was amended. With regard to the latter, I have already given the answer.”

* 12 & 13 Qs.—

MR. SPEAKER:—“As the hon. Member Sri K. T. Kosalram is not in his place, questions 12 and 13 may be taken up later.”

[Questions 12 and 13.—Answered later—See pages 93-98.]

Enquiry into Helminthiasis of cattle.

* 14 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the number of schemes relating to the enquiry into Helminthiasis of cattle and the investigation into the diseases of sheep and goats and the results achieved so far?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“One scheme for each. The results achieved so far in respect of the two schemes are detailed in the paper placed on the table of the House.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Sir, the statement placed on the table of the House is a lengthy one. It requires careful scrutiny. May I request you to take up this question to-morrow?”

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rich people and they can afford to drink. On account of prohibition, Harijans and other poor people are economically better off. The introduction of nira will be ruinous to them. The co-operative societies, in the guise of manufacturing jaggery, will sell nira after mixing something to make it sweet. I request the Government to stop the sale of nira.

"We are now working democracy. The Congress people who fought for and won freedom are there to deliver the goods to the people. Unfortunately groups have been formed within the Congress for the sake of getting power and people are divided. People are at a loss to know for whom they have to vote. People say that the Congress has become corrupt. Congress has not become corrupt. Only our M.L.As. and leaders go about telling the people that there is corruption. I ask the Ministers to go to the villages and contradict the false statements made by our Members. Our Ministers are not visiting the villages; they attend some function in the urban areas and return to the headquarters. I have complained about this in this House two years ago. Let the Ministers be on tour for even twenty-five days in a month. Let them go to the villages and propagate the ideals of the Congress which are intended to save the nation. We want to work democracy. If Congress fails in working democracy, no other party can be expected to succeed. When democracy fails, a benevolent dictator will rule the country.

"As regards the report of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee, I fully agree with the view of my hon. Friend Sri R. V. Swaminathan. The report deserves to be scrapped or burnt. The members of the Committee are owners of thousands of acres of land. What is the use of having members like Messrs. B. Ramachandra Reddi and Ranga Reddi? The Government must have nominated members from the poor classes. The report is not going to be implemented by this Government. The succeeding Government, which will be elected on adult franchise, will scrap this report and prepare another report to the effect that the tiller of the soil is made the owner thereof."

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*SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—"கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே! மேன்மைதங்கிய கவர்னர் அவர்களுடைய பிரசங்கத்திற்குப் பாராட்டுதலை தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளும் தீர்மானத்தின் மீது நானும் இரண்டொரு வார்த்தைகளைச் சொல்லிக்கொண்டு மேன்மைதங்கிய சவர்னர் அவர்களுக்குத் தெரிவிக்கும் பாராட்டுத் தீர்மானத்தில் கலந்துகொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்.

"இந்த அரசாங்கம் பொறுப்பேற்று 4½ ஆண்டுகள் ஆகின்றன. இதற்குள் இந்த சர்க்கார் செய்திருக்கக்கூடிய வேலைகளில், பாராட்டு தலுக்குரிய எத்தனையோ அரியபெரிய சாதனைகள் இருக்கின்றன. அவற்றையெல்லாம் மேன்மைதங்கிய கவர்னர் அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய பிரசங்கத்தில் குறிப்பிட்டு இருக்கிறார்கள். குறிப்பாகச் சொல்லுமிடத்து ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு எங்கள் ஜில்லா சம்பந்தப்பட்ட வரையில், அதாவது தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் குடியிருக்க மனைக்கட்டுகள் இனமாக வழங்கியிருக்கிறார்கள். எங்கள் தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிலே 21 ஆயிரம் ஹரிஜனங்களின் குடும்பங்கள் தாங்கள் குடியிருக்க மனைக்கட்டுகள் வேண்டுமென்று விண்ணப்பம் போட்டார்கள். சர்க்கார் இன்று 13 ஆயிரம் பேருக்கு அதிகமாகவே மனைக்கட்டுகளை, சற்றேறக்குறைய 1½ லக்ஷம் ரூபாய் செலவில் வாங்கி வழங்கியிருக்கிறார்கள். இதில் அங்கேயுள்ள பெரிய மிராசுதார்கள் எல்லாம்

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800 மனைக்கட்டுகளுக்குமேல் இனமாகவே இந்த ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு வழங்க தங்களுக்குச் சொந்தமான நிலங்களைக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்தச் சபையில் எந்தெந்த மடாதிபதிகளைப்பற்றி எல்லாம் அடிக்கடி குறைசுறிக்கொண்டே இருந்தனரோ அந்த மடாதிபதிகள், குறிப்பாக, திருப்பனந்தாள் மடாதிபதிகள் மாத்திரம் இந்த ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு மனைக்கட்டுகள் வழங்குவதற்காக 500 மனைக்கட்டுகள் இனமாகக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார் என்ற விஷயத்தை நான் இங்கே குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். இதைப் போலவே எவ்வளவோ கல்லூரிகள், கலாசாலைகள் அதில் படிக்கும் மாணவர்களுக்கு இலவசவிடுதிகள் முதலியவைகள் அவர்களால் அமைத்துக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன என்பதை யாரும் மறுக்க முடியாது. தூற்றுக் கணக்கான, ஆயிரக் கணக்கான மாணவர்களுக்கு இன்று இலவச படிப்பும் அளிக்கப்பட்டு, இலவசமாக விடுதிகளில் தங்கும் ஏற்பாடுகளும் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன என்பதை நான் சபையிலுள்ளோரின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகின்றேன்."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—"On a point of order, Sir. May I know whether there is any relevancy to His Excellency the Governor's Address in what the hon. Member is now saying?"

MR. SPEAKER :—"There is relevancy. Evidently the hon. Member does not know Tamil."

*SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—"இதுமாதிரி பல ஹரிஜன மக்களின் குடும்பங்களுக்கு குடியிருக்க மனைக்கட்டுகள் வழங்கப்பட்டு இருக்கின்றன. இன்னும் 600 பேருக்கு மனைக்கட்டுகள் கொடுக்கும் தருவாயில் இருக்கின்றன. ஆக பாகி இன்னும் இரண்டாயிரம் பேர்களுக்குத் தான் மனைக்கட்டுகள் வழங்க வேண்டிய நிலைமை இப்போது இருந்து கொண்டே இருக்கிறது. இவற்றையெல்லாம் மறந்துவிட்டு அரசாங்கத்தை குறை சுறிக்கொண்டே போகிறதென்பது கண்முன்னால் நடக்கும் விஷயங்களைப் பார்ப்பதற்கு வேண்டுமென்றே மறுத்து விட்டு, கண்ணை மூடிக்கொண்டே தோன்றியதை எல்லாம் சொல்ல அவர்கள் பிரியப்படுகிறார்கள் என்றுதான் கூறவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஹரிஜன விஷயங்களைத் தவிர இதர பாசன விஷயங்களையும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டாலும் சரி, நமது மாகாணத்தில் எல்லோரும் பிரமிக்கத்தக்க அரிய சாதனைகளை அரசாங்கத்தார் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்றுதான் கூறவேண்டும். சில்லரை பாசனங்களாலும், பெரிய பாசனக் கால்வாய்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்டாலும், பலமுறைகளையும் கையாண்டு தற்போது இருந்துவந்த குறைகளை பல இடங்களிலும் நீக்கியிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை எல்லோரும் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளத்தான் வேண்டும். ஆயிரக்கணக்கான சிறிய, பெரிய நீர்பாசன திட்டங்களை நமது சர்க்கார் அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவந்திருப்பதை எல்லோரும் அறிவார்கள். ஆற்றுத் தண்ணீர் ஏறமுடியாது பல மேட்டுப் பிரதேசங்களிலும் கூட இப்போது மின்சார சக்தி மூலம், பம்பு செட்டுகளை உபயோகித்தும் பாசனத்திற்கு உபயோகமாக தண்ணீர் வசதிகளை இந்த சர்க்கார் செய்துகொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதையும், இதுமாதிரியான புதுமுறை வசதிகளை இந்த சர்க்கார், எந்த ஸ்டேட்டும் கையாளாத நிலையில் முதன் முதலாக இந்த மாகாணத்தில் பலபல சிறிய கிராமங்களில் கூட அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை அறிந்துகொண்டும் இந்த சர்க்காரையாரும் குறைசொல்ல முன் வந்தார்கள் என்றால் அவர்கள் நடக்கும் விஷயங்களை மறந்து, அதற்காக சர்க்காரை பாராட்ட விரும்பவில்லை என்றுதான் கூறவேண்டும். பாசன வசதிக்கு புதிய மின்சார வசதிகளையும், பம்பு செட்டு, ஆயில் என்ஜின் போன்றவைகளையும் வழங்கும் முறையை இந்த சர்க்கார் இப்போது செய்து கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். என்றால், இவைகள் எல்லாம் சபையோரின் பாராட்டுதலுக்கு உரிய விஷயங்கள் இல்லையா என்று நான் இந்தச் சபையோரைக் கேட்க விரும்புகின்றேன். இதைப் போன்று இன்னும் பல பல சிறந்த பாராட்டுதலுக்கு உரிய விஷயங்களை சர்க்கார் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதையும், அவைகளை சொல்லிக்கொண்டே போனால் எனக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் நேரம் போதாது என்பதையும் நான் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். சர்க்கார் செய்திருக்கக்கூடிய காரியங்களை பாராட்டுவதற்காக மாத்திரம் நாம் இங்கு வரவில்லை. அவர்கள்

[Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai] [22nd August 1951]

செய்திருக்கும் காரியங்களைத் தவிர இன்னும் செய்ய வேண்டிய காரியங்கள் என்னென்ன இருக்கின்றன என்பதை சர்க்காரின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவரவேண்டிய நிலையிலும் நாம் இருக்கிறோம்; ஆகையால், இன்னும் செய்யவேண்டிய காரியங்கள் என்னென்ன இருக்கின்றன என்பதை அரசாங்கத்திற்கு எடுத்துக்காட்டி அவர்களுடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர நான் விரும்புகின்றேன்.

“முக்கியமாக இது பட்டுஜட் சமர்ப்பிக்கும் கூட்டம் அல்ல. சப்ளி மெண்டரி பட்டுஜட் தயாரிக்கும் நிலையில், நாட்டின் வரிச்சுமை அதிகமாகி மக்கள் ஜீவனம் செய்யும் நிலை கடுமையாகிக்கொண்டு வரும் சமயத்தில் புதிய வரிப் பிரச்சினை மேன்மைநங்கிய கவர்னர் அவர்கள் குறிப்பிட்டாமல் இருந்திருப்பார்களேயானால் அது மிகவும் நன்றாக இருந்திருக்கும். அவர்கள் இனி வரப்போகின்ற அரசாங்கம் நிதிக் குறைவால் கஷ்டப்படாமல் இருக்க வேண்டிய நிலையில், அவர்களுக்கு உதவியாக ஒரு நல்ல விசாலமான நோக்கத்துடன் இந்த புதிய வரி யோசனையைக் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் இப்போது விவசாயத்தில் நிலையென்ன, விவசாயிகளின் பொருளாதார நிலை எப்படி இருக்கிறது, புதிய வரியை அவர்கள் நிலையில் போட்டால் அதை அவர்களால் தாங்க முடியுமா, என்ற விஷயங்களையெல்லாம் சர்க்கார் நன்றாகப் பரிசீலனை செய்து இந்த வரி விஷயத்தில் சர்க்கார் தங்கள் கருத்தை வெளியிட வேண்டுமென்று நான் அவர்களைக் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“1924-ம் வருஷம் தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் நில செட்டில்மெண்டு செய்த காலத்தில், அதற்கு முன்பு இருந்த செட்டில்மெண்டை மாற்றி அப்போது இருந்த மாகூல் 20 வருஷ சராசரியைக் கணக்கிட்டு, கம்ப்யூட்டேஷன் ரேட்டாக (commutation rate) வரியை நூற்றுக்கு 50 சதம் வீதம் விதித்து, கலம் விலை ஒரு ரூபாய், 14½ அணுவாக நிர்ணயித்தார்கள். ஆனால் 1940-ம் வருஷத்திற்குமுன் தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிலே ஒரு கலம் நெல் 12 அணுவாக விற்ப்புக்கு வந்ததை அரகாங்கம் மறந்திருக்கமுடியாது என்று நான் எண்ணுகிறேன். ஒரு கலம் 12 அணுவாக விற்ப்பு காலத்தில் ஒவ்வொரு விவசாயிகளும் எவ்வளவு கஷ்டப்பட்டுக் கொண்டு நஷ்டத்தில் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு வரி கொடுத்து வந்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதையும் சர்க்கார் இதற்குள் மறந்திருக்க முடியாது. அவர்கள் அப்போது வரி கட்ட எவ்வளவு கஷ்டப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை சர்க்கார் நன்றாக கவனித்துப் பார்ப்பார்களேயானால் இப்போது ஏதோ உணவுப் பொருள்கள் சற்று அதிகமான விலையில் விற்கிறதென்ற காரணத்தால், விவசாயிகளுக்கு ஏதோ ஏராளமான லாபம் வருகிறது, வரிதான் கொஞ்சம் கூட கொடுக்கிறோம் என்ற எண்ணத்தில் புது வரி போடுவதானது நியாயமா என்பதை கூர்ந்து கவனிக்கும்படியாக நரின் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ‘எப்போதுமே விவசாயத் தொழில் ஒரு லாபகரமான தொழில் என்று யாரும் சொல்லியது இடையாது. ‘விவசாயம் எவ்வளவு மேன்மையான தொழிலாக இருந்தபோதிலும், அது ஒரு லாபகரமான தொழில் அல்ல,’ என்று அனேக அரசாங்க பொருளாதார நிபுணர்கள் கூறிய கூற்றையே நான் அவர்களுடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகின்றேன். கோவை ஜில்லாவிலே ஒரு மில் முதலாளி 1942-ம் வருஷத்தில் 4 லக்ஷ ரூபாய் மூலதனம் போட்டு ஆரம்பித்த ஒரு மில்லில் அவருக்கு 1940-42-ம் ஆண்டும் 60 லக்ஷ ரூபாய் லாபம் மாதிரி வந்திருப்பதாகவும் கூறப்படுவதை நான் கேட்டிருக்கிறேன். ஆனால் நான் சொல்லுகிறேன், இப்போது ஒரு விவசாயி அதே 4 லக்ஷ ரூபாய் மூலதனத்தை விவசாயத் தொழிலில் போட்டான் என்றால் அவருக்கு அந்த 4 லக்ஷ ரூபாய்க்கு வட்டி கட்ட வேண்டிய பணமாவது விவசாயத்தில் வருமா என்றால் வராது என்றுதான் நாம் சொல்லவேண்டும். இதை கனம் நிதி மந்திரி அவர்கள் சிந்தனைசெய்து பார்க்கவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். இந்த கஷ்டமான சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் இந்த நில வரிக் கொள்கையை கொண்டுவந்திருப்பது சரிதான் என்ற விஷயத்தை புணராலோசனை செய்யவேண்டுமென்றும் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். யாரைக் கேட்டாலும் இன்றைய விவசாயிகளுடைய நிலைமையை எடுத்துச் சொல்வார்கள். விவசாயத்தில் வரும் லாபம் என்ன என்பதையும் எடுத்துச் சொல்லுவார்கள். இந்தச் சபையிலேயே விவசாயத்தில் நல்ல அனு-

[22nd August 1951] [Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai]

பவமுள்ள அங்கத்தினர்கள் பலர் இருக்கின்றார்கள். அவர்கள் எல்லோரையும் கலந்து ஆலோசனை செய்துகொண்டு இந்த வரிக் கொள்கையை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென கனம் நிதி மந்திரி அவர்களை நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். மேன்மைநங்கிய கவர்னர் அவர்களுடைய பேச்சு முழுவதும் இந்த சர்க்காரின் எலெக்ஷன் மானிபெஸ்டோ என்று எனக்கு முன் பேசிய பல அங்கத்தினர்கள் குறிப்பிட்டார்கள். தேர்தல் பேச்சாக இது உண்மையாக இருக்குமானால் இந்த தீர்மானத்தை மாற்றுவதற்கில்லை. ஆனால் இந்த வரிக் கொள்கையை மாற்ற வேண்டிய நிலையில்தான் இருக்கிறோம். ஆகையாலேயே இந்தப் பேச்சை தேர்தல் அறிக்கை என்று சொல்வது அவ்வளவு பொருத்தமாகாது என்று நான் கருதுகிறேன்.

“மேன்மைநங்கிய கவர்னர் அவர்கள் பேசில் நீர்பாசன வசதி செய்து கொடுத்து அதன் பலனை அனுபவிக்கின்ற நிலங்களுக்கு பெட்டர் மெண்டர் டாக்ஸ் வசூலிக்கப்போவதாக கூறப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. மேலும் 250 ரூபாய்க்கு மேல் தீர்வை செலுத்துவோர்களுக்கு சர்ஜார்ஜ் விதிக்கப்படுமென கூறப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. 150 ரூபாய்க்கு மேல் தீர்வை செலுத்துவோர்களுக்கு சர்ஜார்ஜ் விதிக்கப்படுமென்று சொல்லுவது ‘தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவைப் பொறுத்த மட்டில் அது சரியான முடிவு என்று சொல்ல முடியாது. ஏனென்றால் இன்று 10 ஏக்கர் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறவர்கள் கூடத்தான் சர்க்காருக்கு 150 ரூபாய்க்கு மேல் தீர்வை செலுத்துகிறார்கள். ஆனால் இன்று 150 ரூபாய் தீர்வை செலுத்திக் கொண்டிருக்கிற விவசாயிகள் எப்படி குடும்பத்தை நடத்த கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள், அவர்களுடைய நில வருமானம் இப்போது கொடுத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிற தீர்வையை செலுத்த வரவது போதுமானதா? இருக்கிறதா, அவர்கள் சிரமமின்றி குடும்ப சமரக்களை செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்களா என்று, நீங்கள் பார்க்கவேண்டும். அம்மாதிரி பரிசீலனை செய்து அந்த விவசாயிகள் மேலும் சர்ஜார்ஜாக இன்னும் கொஞ்சம் தீர்வை செலுத்த முடியும் என்று எண்ணினால் இந்த வரிக் கொள்கையை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டு வருங்கள். உண்மையைக் கூறப்போனால் 150 ரூபாய்க்குமேல் தீர்வை செலுத்தும் விவசாயிகள் இன்று அந்த தீர்வையையே கடன் வாங்கிக் கொடுக்கிறார்களே தவிர அவர்களுக்கு நிலத்தில் வரும் லாபத்தால் அந்தத் தீர்வையைக் கொடுக்கவில்லை. இன்று நிலத்தில் வரக்கூடிய லாபமானது அவருக்கு மறு சாகுபடிக்கு வேண்டிய மூலதனம் போடக்கூட போதுமானதாக இல்லை. அப்படி ஒவ்வொரு விவசாயியும் குடும்பம் நடத்த கஷ்டப்படும்தோடு, தீர்வை செலுத்த கடன் வாங்கியோ, அல்லது நிலத்தை கிறீற்றே தீர்வை செலுத்திக்கொண்டு வரும்போது, இப்போது புதிய வரியை அந்த நிலங்களுக்குப் போடுவது என்பது சரியான நியாயமான யோசனை அல்ல. இதை சர்க்கார் தீர் ஆலோசனைசெய்து எந்த ஒரு முடிவிற்காகிலும் வரவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“உணவு உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்க வேண்டுமென்றால் புதிதாக எந்த வரியையும் விவசாயிகளின் நிலையில் போடாமல் அவர்கள் நிலையில் இப்போது சமந்திருக்கும் அதிகமான வரிப் பளுவையையே குறைக்க வேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். விவசாயிகளுக்கு எந்தெந்த விதங்களில் சலுகை காட்டமுடியுமோ அந்தந்த வகைகளில் எல்லாம் சலுகை காட்டி உதவி செய்தால்தான் விவசாயத்தை அபிவிருத்தி செய்ய முடியுமென்பதை நான் கனம் நிதி மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குச் சுட்டிக் காட்ட விரும்புகின்றேன்.”

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—“நிதி மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குச் சுட்டிக் காட்டுவதில் என்ன பிரயோசனம்? விவசாய மந்திரியிடம் சொன்னால் பிரயோசனம் உண்டு.”

*SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—“இருந்தாலும் அரசாங்க பொக்கிஷத்திற்கு அதிகாரி நிதி மந்திரியாகையாலும், பொக்கிஷம் குறையும் போது உடனே நிதி மந்திரி அவர்கள் விவசாயிகளின் நிலையில் புதிய வரியைப் போட்டு பொக்கிஷத்தை நிறைக்கப் பார்க்கக் கூடாது என்பதாலும், கனம் விவசாய மந்திரி அவர்கள் சபையில் இல்லாததாலும்,

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கனம் நிதி மந்திரி அவர்களிடம் சொன்னால் அதை அவர்கள் கனம் விவசாய மந்திரிகளிடம் போய் சொல்லுவார்கள் என்பதாலும் தான் நான் நிதி மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குச் சுட்டிக் காட்டுகிறேன்.

“ முக்கியமாக இன்று அரசாங்கத்தார் உணவுப்பொருள்களை மிகவும் குறைந்த விலைக்கு கண்டிரோல் செய்து வாங்குகிறார்கள். ஆனால் என்னென்ன வகைகளில் எல்லாம் விவசாயிகளுக்கு சலுகை காட்ட முடியுமோ அந்தந்த வகைகளில் எல்லாம் விவசாயிகளுக்கு உதவி செய்தால்தான் உற்பத்தியை அதிகம் செய்து விவசாயிகளும் விவசாயத்தில் ஊக்கம் அளிக்க முடியும். அப்படி இருக்க முக்கியமாக விவசாயிகள் மனச் சோர்வு அடையும் வகையில் இன்று உணவுப் பொருள்களுக்கு மிகவும் குறைந்த விலையில் பணத்தைக் கொடுத்து, கண்டிரோல் செய்து வாங்கி விடுகிறார்கள். ஆனால் இன்று ஒரு விவசாயி தன்னுடைய நெல்லை மூட்டை 11 ரூபாய், 11½ ரூபாய் என்று சர்க்காருக்குக் கொடுத்து விடுகிறானே தவிர மற்றபடியும் தங்கள் விவசாயத்திற்கு மிகவும் உதவியான மாடுகளின் ஜீவனத்திற்காக பருத்திக் கொட்டை வாங்கும்போது மூட்டை 29 ரூபாய், அல்லது 30 ரூபாய் என்று வாங்குகிறான். அதாவது தன் னுடைய நெல்லில் மூன்று மூட்டையை விற்று விட்டு அதற்குப் பதிலாக ஒரு மூட்டை பருத்திக்கொட்டையை மாட்டிற்காக அவன் வாங்க வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. என்றால் ஒரு விவசாயி எப்படி தன் தொழிலில் ஊக்கம் செலுத்த முடியுமென்று நான் கேட்கிறேன். இந்தமாதிரி அரசாங்கத்தார் விவசாயிகளின் அத்தியாவசியப் பொருள்களின் விலையை கண்டிரோல் செய்யாமலும், அவைகள் விவசாயிகளுக்குக் கிடைக்கும்படி வழி செய்யாமலும் விவசாயிகளின் உற்பத்திப் பொருள்களான உணவுப் பொருள்களுக்கு மாத்திரம் விலையை கண்டிரோல் செய்வதானது மிகவும் தவறான கொள்கையாகும். இன்று விவசாயிகளுக்கு வேண்டிய இதர பொருள்களையும் மலிவான விலையில் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்து அவர்கள் உற்பத்தி செய்யும் தானியத்தையும் குறைந்த விலையில் வாங்கிக் கொண்டு அதில் யாருக்கும் ஆகேற்பனை இருக்க முடியாது. உணவுப் பொருள்களின் உற்பத்திக்கு விவசாயிகளுக்கு விவசாயத்தில் ஊக்கம் ஏற்படும் படியான எல்லா ஏற்பாடுகளையும் செய்தால்தான் உண்மையில் உணவுப் பிரச்சினையைத் தீர்க்க முடியும். ஆகையால் இதில் அரசாங்கத்தார் கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன்.

“ எந்தந்த வகைகளில் எல்லாம் உணவுப் பொருள் உற்பத்தி விஷயத்தில் அரசாங்கம் விவசாயிகளுக்கு சலுகை காட்ட முடியுமோ அந்தந்தச் சலுகையையெல்லாம் காட்ட முன் வரவேண்டும். மற்ற விவசாயப் பொருள்கள் விஷயத்தில் அவர்கள் எப்படி நடந்து கொண்டாலும் நான் அதைப்பற்றி ஒன்றும் கோரப் போவதில்லை.

“ உணவு உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்க அதிக முயற்சி செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று நினைக்கிறவர்கள் எல்லாரும் இப்போது (crop competition) பயிர் போட்டி நடந்ததைக் கூர்ந்து கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன். தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் ஒரு ஏக்கர நிலத்தில் 1,000 பவுண்டு நெல் உற்பத்தி செய்யப்பட்டுப்பதைக் கவனித்திருப்பார்கள். அப்படி அதிக விளைவு எப்படிச் செய்தார்கள் என்றால் அதிக உரம் போட்டு அதை கொஞ்சம் பக்குவமாக சாகுபடி செய்ததன் மூலமாகத்தான் அவ்வளவு அதிகமான அளவு உற்பத்தி செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால் சர்க்காரும் உணவு உற்பத்தி விஷயத்தில் இன்னும் கொஞ்சம் அக்கறை காட்டவேண்டும். விவசாயிகளுக்கு குறைந்த விலையில் அதிகமான உரம், மற்ற விவசாய கருவிகள், இதர சாதனங்கள் கிடைக்கும்படி அரசாங்கத்தார் செய்வார்களேயானால் இன்று இருக்கும் உற்பத்தியைப் போல் கஷ்டமில்லாமல் இரு மடங்கு உற்பத்தி அதிகம் செய்யமுடியும். அதன் மூலமாக உணவுப் பிரச்சினையும் தீர்க்கமுடியும். விவசாய மந்திரி இந்தச் சந்தர்ப்பத்தில், செக்ரடேரியுடன் கூட்டிட்டு உட்கார்ந்துகொண்டிருக்கும் அங்கங்கே சென்று விவசாயிகளிடத்தில் ஊக்கம் உண்டாகும்படி தன் செல்வாக்கை எல்லாம் உபயோகித்து அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய உரம், மற்ற இதர சாதனங்கள் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்யவேண்டும். பெரிய நீர்பாசன திட்டங்கள் எப்போது பூர்த்தியானாலும் பரவாமலில்லை. சில சில சிறிய திட்டங்களை உடனே செய்தால் இப்போது ஒரு போக நிலமாக பயிர் செய்யும்

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நிலங்களை எல்லாம் கஷ்டமின்றி இரண்டு போக நிலமாக பயிர் செய்ய முடியும். அதனால் இப்போது இருப்பதைப் போல் இரண்டு மடங்கு அதிக உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்ய முடியுமென்று கனம் விவசாயத் துறை அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். இது மிகவும் சிறந்த யோசனை. இன்றைக்கு அதே போல் ஏராளமான ஒரு போக நிலங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. கனம் விவசாயத் துறை அமைச்சர் குறிப்பிட்டதைப்போல் மிகச் சிறிய திட்டங்களை சர்க்கார் உடனே செய்ய முயற்சி எடுத்துக் கொண்டால்தான் அந்த ஒரு போக நிலங்களை இரு போக விளைச்சல் நிலங்களாக மாற்ற முடியும். வேறு புது பெரிய திட்டம் எதுவும் இல்லாமல் உணவு உற்பத்தியை இரண்டு மடங்காகப் பெருக்கவும் முடியும், என்ற விஷயத்தைக் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்கு நான் ஞாபக மூட்ட விரும்புகிறேன். அதே மாதிரி பாசன விஷயங்களில் சர்க்கார் எவ்வளவோ புதிய புதிய திட்டங்களை மேற்கொண்டும் இன்னும் அனேக இடங்களில் உள்ள கால்வாய்களில் வண்டல், துரு எடுக்கப்படாதிருக்கின்ற காரணமாக அந்தக் கால்வாய்களின் வழியாக தண்ணீர் பாயமுடியாத நிலம் சாகுபடி வசதியற்றுப் போய் இருக்கிறது. ஆற்றில் ஜலம் வந்தும் கூட அந்தக் கால்வாய்களின் வழியாக தண்ணீர் நிலத்திற்குப் போகமுடியாமல் பல கால்வாய்கள் தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் இருக்கின்றன. இந்தக் கால்வாய்களின் துருவை உடனே எடுக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்தால், அந்த நிலங்களில் எல்லாம் விவசாயம் நன்றாகச் செய்யமுடியும். இந்த விஷயத்தில் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் போதிய கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“ இதே சமயத்தில் பாசன வசதி இருக்கக் கூடிய இடங்களிலேயே தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் பல இடங்களில் ஏராளமான நிலங்கள் தரிசாகக் கிடைக்கின்றன என்ற விஷயத்தை நான் பல முறையில் சர்க்காரின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறேன். ஆனால் அந்த நிலங்கள் இன்னும் அப்படியே தரிசாகத்தான்கிடக்கின்றன. ஆயிரக்கணக்கான ஏக்கர் நிலங்கள் இன்னும் தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிலே புறம்போக்கு தரிச நிலமாகத் தான் கிடக்கின்றன. இதற்குமுன் எத்தனையோ முறைகள் இந்த விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி சர்க்காரின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவந்தும் இதுவரை சர்க்கார் எந்தவிதமான முயற்சியும் எடுக்காதது மிகவும் வருந்தத்தக்க விஷயம். அந்த தரிச நிலங்களை எல்லாம் உடனே விவசாயத்திற்கு எடுத்துக் கொண்டால் உணவு உற்பத்தியை இன்னும் எவ்வளவோ மடங்கு பெருக்க முடியும், என்று நான் நிச்சயமாகச் சொல்லுவேன்.

“ உணவுப் பிரச்சினையைத் தீர்த்து விட்டால் மற்ற பிரச்சினைகளையெல்லாம் தீர்க்க முடியாது என்று சொல்ல முடியாது. மற்ற எல்லா துறைகளிலும் சர்க்கார் இப்போது போதிய கவனம் செலுத்திக் கொண்டதால் இருக்கின்றது. இதர ராஜ்யங்களைக் காட்டிலும் நம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்தில்தான் ஆதாரக் கல்வியானது அதிகமான முறையில் அபிவிருத்தியாகியிருக்கின்றது. நம்முடைய சர்க்கார் 500 ஆதாரக் கல்விச் சாலைகளையும் 50 பயிற்சிப் பள்ளிகளையும் ஏற்படுத்திப்போடத் தான் நாம் நம் சர்க்காரைப் பாராட்டத்தான் வேண்டும். அதே மாதிரி வேறு எந்த மாகாணத்திலும் ஆதாரக் கல்வி பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை அமைக்கவில்லை. ஆதாரக் கல்வி ஒன்றினால்தான் நம்முடைய நாட்டின் சகல தேவைகளையும் நாமே பூர்த்திசெய்து கொள்ளமுடியும். உழைப்பு இழிவுத்தனம், படித்தவர்கள் விவசாயத் தொழிலில் ஈடுபடுவது அகௌரவம், விவசாயத் தொழில் என்பது படிக்காத, நாகரிக மற்றவர் அருமும் தொழில், என்ற தப்பான அபிப்பிராயங்கள் ஆங்கில கல்வி முறையில் பயின்ற பல மாணவர்கள் உள்ளத்தில் இடம் பெற்றிருக்கின்றன. அந்த இழிவான, எண்ணத்தை மாற்றி, உழைப்பவன் தான் நாட்டின் உண்மை சேவகன் என்ற எண்ணத்தையும், உழைத்து வேலைசெய்து தன் தேவைகளை தானே பூர்த்தி செய்துகொள்வது தான் கௌரவம், அதனால், உழைக்க நாம் எல்லோரும் முன் வரவேண்டுமென்ற எண்ணத்தையும் மாணவர்களுடைய உள்ளத்தில் வளர்ப்பதுதான் ஆதாரக் கல்வியின் அடிப்படைக் கொள்கையாகும். இந்தக் கொள்கைப்படி கல்வி கற்கும் மாணவர்கள் நாட்டில் அதிகமானால் உணவுப் பிரச்சனை அதன் மூலமாக தானே தீர்ந்து விடும். உடைய பிரச்சனை அதன் மூலமாக தானே தீர்ந்து விடும். சாதாரணமாக இன்று ஆதாரக் கல்வி பள்ளியில்

[Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai] [22nd August 1951]

படிக்கின்ற ஐந்தாவது, ஆறாவது வகுப்பு மாணவர்களை தங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய உடைகளுக்கு வேண்டிய நூலை தாங்களே நூற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். அந்த நூலை உடையாகவும் நெய்து கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். அதற்கு வேண்டிய பயிற்சியை அவர்களுக்கு ஆசிரியர்கள் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். இதே மாதிரி எல்லா மாணவர்களும் பயிற்சி பெற்றால் நாட்டில் ஏன் உடைப் பஞ்சம், நூல் பஞ்சம் இருக்கிறது என்று நான் கேட்க விரும்புகின்றேன். நகரங்களில் உள்ள கலாசாலைகள், கல்லூரிகளை கிராமாந்திரப் பிரதேசங்களுக்குக் கொண்டு வரவேண்டுமென்பதுதான் இதன் அடிப்படையான கொள்கை. இந்த விஷயத்தில் அரசாங்கம் பூர்ணமான கவனம் செலுத்து வார்களேயானால் இந்த மாகாணத்திலுள்ள எல்லாப் பிரச்சினைகளையும் சலபமாகத் தீர்த்து விடலாம். எல்லா வகைகளிலும் மாணவர்களுக்கு வேலைசெய்யும் திறனைக் கற்றுக்கொடுத்து அவர்களுடைய சுய தேவைகளுக்கு பிறரை எதிர்பார்க்காமல் இருக்கக்கூடிய திறமையையும் அளிக்கின்ற இந்த ஆதாரக் கல்வி விஷயத்தில் நம் சர்க்கார் இன்னும் அதிகமான கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டுமெனக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த மாதாணத்திலுள்ள எல்லா ஆரம்பக் கல்வி பள்ளிக் கூடங்களையும் கண்க்கெடுத்து, இன்று அவைகளை ஆதாரக் கல்வி பள்ளிக்கூடமாக மாற்றப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. எவ்வளவு என்று பார்த்தால் 1%-க்குக் குறைவுதான் என்று சொல்லும்போது மிகவும் விசனிக்கத்தான் வேண்டியிருக்கிறது என்பதை ஞாபகப்படுத்த விரும்புகின்றேன். அடுத்த கல்வி ஆண்டுக்குள்ளாவது சகெண்டரி ஸ்கூல் பயிற்சி பெற்ற ஆசிரியர்கள் அத்தனைபேரையும் ஆதாரக் கல்வி முறையில் பயிற்சிக்கொடுத்து அந்த ஆசிரியர்களைக்கொண்டு, ஆரம்பப் பாடசாலைகளையெல்லாம் ஆதாரக் கல்வி பயிற்சி பள்ளியாக மாற்றியமைத்தால்தான் இந்த நாட்டின் இன்றைய பிரச்சினைகளை எல்லாம் உடனடியாகத் தீர்க்க முடியுமென்று நான் சொல்ல விரும்புகின்றேன். தொழில் நிறைந்த பிரதேசங்களில் இருக்கக்கூடிய பள்ளிக்கூடங்களையெல்லாம் ஆதாரக் கல்வி பள்ளிக்கூடங்களாக மாற்றி கட்டாயக் கல்வி முறையை அமுலுக்குக்கொண்டு வரவேண்டும்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக விவசாயத்துறையில் ஆராய்ச்சி நடத்தி ஒரு ரிபோர்ட்டை சமர்ப்பிக்கச் சொல்லி அமைத்த விவசாய ஆராய்ச்சிக் கமிட்டி தன் சிபார்சுகளை சர்க்காருக்கு சமர்ப்பித்திருக்கிறது என்றும் அந்த சிபார்சுகளை சர்க்கார் பரிசீலனை செய்து வருகிறதென்றும் அந்த சிபார்சுகள் எவ்வளவு நாளைக்குப் பிறகு ஒப்புக் கொள்ளப்பட்டாலும் அந்தச் சிபார்சுகள் இவ்வாண்டு ஜூலை முதல் தேதி முதலே அமுலுக்கு வந்ததாகக் கருதப் படுமென்றும் வெளியிடப்பட்டிருந்த அறிக்கையை எல்லாரும் படித்தோம்.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“இன்னும் நாலேந்து நிமிஷத்திலே முடித்துக் கொண்டுவருங்கள்.”

*** Sri A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—**“இந்த சுப்பிரமணியம் கமிட்டியின் நிலச் சீர்திருத்த சிபார்சுகளை சர்க்கார் இன்னும் 10 வருஷங்களுக்குப் பிறகு சட்டமாகக் கொண்டு வந்தாலும் அந்தச் சிபார்சுகள் 1951-ம் வருஷம் ஜூலை மாதம் முதல் தேதியிலிருந்தே அமுலுக்கு வந்ததாகக் கருதப்படுமென்று சர்க்கார் அறிக்கை விட்டதின்காரணமாக இன்று என்ன கஷ்டம் விவசாயிகளுக்கு நேர்ந்திருக்கிறது என்பதை எல்லோரும் உணர்ந்து பார்க்கவேண்டும். அந்த அறிக்கையின் காரணமாக எங்கள் ஜில்லாவில் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் புதிய பிரச்சினை நான் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகின்றேன். விவசாயிகளுக்கு நிலம் குத்தகைக்கு விட்டிருந்தால் சில காலத் திற்குப் பிறகு அந்த நிலம் அந்த விவசாயின் சொந்த நிலம் போன்ற பந்தம் வந்து விடுகிறது அந்த சிபார்சுகளை ஒப்புக் கொண்டால், அந்த காரணத்திற்காகவே இன்று மிராசுதார்கள் விவசாயிகளுக்கு நிலம் குத்தகைக்கு விடுவதற்கு மறுத்து விவசாயிகளிடம் இருந்த நிலத்தை வாங்கி விட்டார்கள். அதன் காரணமாக ஏராளமான நிலமற்ற விவசாயிகள் பயிரிடுவதற்கு நிலம் இல்லாமல் வேலைசெய்ய வேறு வழியின்றி சாப் பாட்டுக்கே கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள் என்பது கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுடைய கவனத்திற்குச் சென்ற வரப்பட்டிருக்குமென்று நம்புகின்றேன். சுப்பிரமணியம் கமிட்டியின் நிலச்சீர்திருத்த சிபார்சுகளை சர்க்கார் எப்போது

[22nd August 1951] [Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai]

ஒப்புக்கொண்டாலும் அது ஜூலை முதல் தேதி முதல் அமுலுக்கு வந்ததாகவே கருதப்படுமென்ற காரணத்தால் தான் இந்த ஜூலை முதல் தேதி முதலே குத்தகை நிலங்களை மிராசுதார்கள் விவசாயிகளிடம் இருந்து வாங்கிவிட்டதால் விவசாயிகள் இன்று சொல்லொது கஷ்டத்தை அனுபவிக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் இந்த விஷயத்தில் தலையிட்டு விவசாயிகளுக்கு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் புதிய கஷ்டத்தை நீக்க குத்தகைக்கு வேண்டிய நிலம் கிடைக்கும்படி வழி செய்யவேண்டும். இல்லாவிட்டால் அந்த விவசாயிகளுக்கு ஏராளமான ஏக்கர் புறம்போக்காகக் கிடக்கும் நிலங்களையாவது கொடுத்து விவசாயம் செய்யும்படி செய்து அவர்களுக்கு தொழில் கொடுத்து அவர்களைக் காப்பாற்றவேண்டும். இந்த சுப்பிரமணியம் கமிட்டி சிபார்சை ஜூலை முதல் அமுலுக்கு வரும் என்ற அரசாங்க அறிக்கையின் எதிரொலியாக இன்று ஏராளமான விவசாயிகளின் குத்தகை நிலங்கள் பிடுங்கப்பட்டு வேலையின்றி கிடக்கிறார்கள். ஒரு ஆலை யில் 4' தொழிலாளிகள் வேலையின்றி நீக்கப்பட்டார்கள் என்றால் இதன் எதிரொலியாக **strike** நடக்கும். பெரிய கலவரம் ஏற்படும். அரசாங்கமும் பயந்துகொண்டு தலையிட்டு அந்த 4 தொழிலாளிகளுக்கும் வேலை கிடைக்கும்படி உடனே நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்வார்கள். ஆனால் விவசாயிகள் அப்பாறிகள். கூச்சல்போடத் தெரியாதவர்கள். எந்த விதமான கலாட்டாவும், கலவரமும் செய்யத் தெரியாதவர்கள். அதன் காரணமாகத் தான் இன்று பல ஆயிரம் விவசாயிகள் வேலையின்றி தண்டாடிக்கொண்டும் அவர்கள் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக்கொண்டுமிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் ஜீவனத்திற்கு வழியின்றி தண்டாடிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்களே தவிர வேறு எந்தவிதமான புரட்சியிலும் ஈடுபடவில்லை. அதன் காரணமாகத்தான் சர்க்கார் அவர்கள் விஷயத்தில் எந்தவிதமான அக்கரையும் காட்டாமல் நடந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் இதே நிலைமையை சர்க்கார் திடிக்க விட்டால் பின்னர் என்ன நடக்குமென்று சொல்ல முடியாது. சர்க்கார் இந்த சரியான சமயத்தில் அவர்கள் விஷயத்தில் தலையிட்டு வேலையிழந்து நிற்கும் அந்த ஏழை விவசாயிகளுக்கு உடனே வேலை கிடைக்கும்படி செய்யவேண்டும். இல்லாவிட்டாலும் தங்களிடமுள்ள புறம்போக்கு, தரிசு நிலங்களையாவது உடனே கொடுத்து அவர்களுக்கு வேலை கிடைக்கச் செய்ய வேண்டும். இந்த விஷயத்தில் சர்க்கார் காலதாமதம் செய்தால் பல்லாயிரக் கணக்கான விவசாயிகளின் குடும்பங்கள் பரிதவிக்க நேரிடும் என்பதை நான் சர்க்காருடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகின்றேன்.

“ஆகவே சர்க்கார் இந்த விஷயங்களிலெல்லாம் தீவிரமான கவனம் செலுத்தவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு மேன்மை தங்கிய கவர்னர் அவர்களுடைய பிரசங்கத்தைப் பாராட்டும் தீர்மானத்தை நானும் மனப் பூர்வமாக ஆதரித்து, என்னுடைய மனமார்ந்த நன்றியையும் நான் அவர்களுக்குத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“I now adjourn the House till 11 o'clock to-morrow.”

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 23rd August 1951.

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MR. SPEAKER :—" This question will be taken up to-morrow for putting supplementaries."

Number of buses running in the City.

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

(a) the average number of buses running in the City per day in May 1951;

(b) the average mileage covered by each bus per day;

(c) the average mileage per gallon of petrol;

(d) the average collection per day at present; and

(e) the average expenditure per day inclusive of that for capital investment, wear and tear, etc.?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (a) The daily average number of buses* that plied in the Madras City and suburban routes during May 1951 was 233. This is exclusive of 18 buses on an average which plied daily on mufassal routes.

" (b) The average mileage covered by each bus per day was 142.

" (c) The average mileage covered per gallon of petrol was 8.4.

" (d) Rs. 30,900.

" (e) Rs. 28,100.

This cannot be taken as average for the whole year as expenditure will vary from month to month."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" May I ask the Government, Sir, whether, on the whole, these buses have been earning any profit? "

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

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, are the Government aware that the number of buses now plying in the City is not commensurate with the growth of the population in the City with the result that there has been considerable agitation regarding what is known as the peak-hour traffic and the Government's failure to provide adequate number of buses to meet that situation? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" This agitation is there since 1948. There is no special agitation just now."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have any statistics to show the minimum number of buses required in the City of Madras to be plied every day? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" There are no statistics, Sir."

SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" Sir, it is not a matter of agitation, but during peak hours, it is a matter of experience that a

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large number of people are not able to get buses. Therefore, what arrangements the Government are going to make to see that people are given as much convenience as possible? This is the standing cry in the City of Madras."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We are trying to increase the seating capacity of the buses. We shall also see whether we can increase the number of buses. First and foremost, we are trying to increase the seating capacity of our buses. We are going to replace the 22-seater buses by long 36-seater or 44-seater buses."

SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" Sir, may I ask whether the Government will consider the question—I am saying this from my recent experience outside—of making the buses go more speedily during peak hours? I have seen in big cities, within five minutes one gets a bus. The Government may consider this question and the buses may be asked to go at a greater speed from about 9 a.m. to 12 noon and similarly in the evenings."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" This is a difficult question, because the workers have been trying to impress upon us that the time allotted for the journey from Mylapore to Parry's Corner is too little, and that they want further time. Between 9 a.m. and 12 noon all the tram cars and other vehicular traffic will be on the road, and it will be very difficult for us to ask our workers to go at greater speed when they have been pressing upon us that we must extend the period allowed from terminus to terminus."

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—" In view of the fact that the Government have hopelessly failed to deal with the peak-hour traffic, will they divert all their buses plying in the mufassal areas to the City and solve the problem here in the City? "

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

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Hon. Minister for Transport and his department are only concerned with making as much money as possible with the minimum number of buses without caring for the convenience of the general public who have the misfortune of travelling in Government buses in the City? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We are not oblivious to the financial aspect of the department. We are also trying to cater to the needs of the public. We have essentially to serve the public before we can make money."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" In view of the fact that the Government are making this experiment having an eye primarily on the return that this nationalization will bring to them, may I ask, Sir, whether the Government will be prepared to give some at least of the routes to commercial concerns? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is too late in the day to think of allowing other people on the road."

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SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" With a view to provide greater comforts to the passengers, may I know if the Government have considered the desirability of abolishing the standing passengers in the City buses as is done in the mufassal buses? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" No, Sir. I think in most of the urban buses, there is provision for standing passengers. If we do not have it in the peak hours, many people will be stranded in the streets. So, for the time being we must allow standing passengers."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" Apart from the steps taken to solve the peak-hour traffic, will the Government consider the desirability of running buses from intermediate stations instead of from terminus to terminus? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" This experiment was tried, and it has not proved a success."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Apart from increasing the seating capacity of buses and putting 8 or 10 new buses, may I suggest that during the peak hours, that is, between 9 and 11 in the morning and 5 and 7 or 5 and 7-30 in the evening, a few more buses may be put on the road? These buses may run only during these hours, and may be taken back into the shed after the peak hour."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" During the peak hours in the morning and in the evening more buses are put on the road."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—" Sir, is it the experience of the Hon. Minister that private operators run buses not with a view to render public service at all but only with a view to make profits? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Private operators are not there to do any great public service. After all, primarily their eye is on profits, while the Government have both."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR :—" May I know, Sir, if the difficulty experienced by the people during the peak hours is so great that it has never been experienced before? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" There are complaints right from 1946 or 1947 that there is some difficulty in peak-hour traffic."

SRI P. NATESAN :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Hon. Minister said on certain occasions that they were looking to the profit side of the venture, but now he comes forward and says that he looks to the service side of the venture? May I ask, Sir, how does he reconcile these two statements, and which of them is correct? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not think I have ever said that I am looking only to the profit side of the venture."

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SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have actually reduced the number of buses from the number which were running while the City Transport was in private hands? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" No, Sir. On the other hand, we have increased the number of buses. We have increased the seating capacity of the buses, and I can give statistics to show how we have increased the seating capacity of the buses."

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that during peak hours, passengers have to stand at bus-stands for more than one hour or one and a half hours to get buses? Why not the Government try to increase the number of buses so that this difficulty can be solved? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" While I am not aware that people are made to stand at bus-stands for one hour and one and a half hours, we will consider the suggestion to increase the number of buses."

SRI K. LINGA RAJU :—" May I enquire, Sir, how many buses on an average are in the repair shed every day? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Not all of them are in the repair shed. Some are kept as stand-by. Everyday 233 buses are put on the road in the City, and another 18 buses are put on the mufassal roads."

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—" May I know how many buses of bigger seating capacity the Government are getting ready, when they will be ready, what investment the Government will make on these buses, and when these buses will be put on the road? "

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

SRI G. RAJAMANNAR CHETTI :—" As the Hon. Minister 11-15 has said that he is not aware that the passengers are made to wait a.m. for many hours in order to secure a seat in the bus, may I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister has considered the possibility of his going *incognito* and satisfying himself about the facts stated by the hon. Member? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Even if I go *incognito* my height is so much that I will be recognized." (Laughter.)

SRI M. R. APPA RAO :—" As the quality of the bus-stands is very bad, will the Government improve their quality? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Certainly; it is done by the Corporation and with the help of some philanthropists."

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH :—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister that the number of buses and their

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seating capacity have been increased after nationalization, how is it that during peak hours a larger number of people are stranded now than they were before nationalization in Madras? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" That is because more people are taking to buses now than before."

JANAB K. M. SEETHI :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have made an estimate of the extra number of buses that will be required to cope with the demands during the peak hours? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is very difficult to estimate it. The question of putting more buses on the routes will be considered."

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—" The Hon. Minister answered the first part of the question, Sir. I want an answer to the second part, viz., whether they can divert the buses that are plying to mufassal centres, as they are being served by private operators, and thus solve the peak-hour problem in the City. The Hon. Minister lost his temper and said that he did not accept the premises. I want an answer to the second part of my question."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We shall consider that suggestion whether we cannot put in more buses than now."

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—" Instead of all the promises which we have been hearing from the Hon. the Minister for Transport for the last two or three years, will he say categorically whether he will solve this problem by putting in the requisite number of buses without giving evasive replies which do not satisfy the general public outside? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not think I have ever made promises with regard to this matter, but today for the first time I am telling the House that the question of putting more buses on the routes will be considered. Having received several suggestions from the hon. Members, we shall consider whether we can increase the seating capacity also."

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have increased the number of buses during the peak hours both in the morning and in the evening and, if so, how many extra buses are being put on service during the peak hours? "

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

SRI ROKKAM RAMAMURTHI :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that some of the buses are leaky and they are giving a lot of inconvenience to the passengers during the rainy season, and will they rectify it? "

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I am glad the hon. Member brought it to our notice that some of the buses are leaky. I wish he could give the numbers also so that we could attend to them." (Laughter.)

Acreage under paddy cultivation in South Kanara.

* 16 Q.—JANAB MAHIN SCHAMNAD: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the South Kanara district is treated as a self-sufficient district for the purpose of food, and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the yield of paddy per acre in South Kanara district in 1950; and

(c) the acreage under paddy cultivation in South Kanara district in 1950?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" (a) South Kanara district is being treated as a self-sufficient district as the normal per capita production of rice in the district is 398 lb. The per capita production of rice this year is 332 lb. which means that the district produces enough rice to ensure just about 1 lb. per adult per day.

" (b) About 1,393 lb. per acre in terms of paddy.

" (c) 550,000 acres."

JANAB MAHIN SCHAMNAD :—" May I know what the total quantity of paddy required for South Kanara district is? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" I have not got the figures ready, Sir. But according to the answer I have already given, the per capita production of rice this year is 332 lb. which means that the district produces enough rice to ensure just about 1 lb. per adult per day. That is the information I am able to give at present."

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—" If the opinion of the Hon. the Minister for Food is that the district of South Kanara is self-sufficient, will he be able to give us the reason why rice has to be imported into South Kanara for feeding the people of that district? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Some time back there was a change in the system of procurement and the levy system was introduced rather late, i.e., after the harvest season was over, and we could not procure sufficient quantity of rice during the harvest season. Naturally, therefore, there was no rice which could be procured and when the difficulty was pointed out to the Government that the district had run short of rice, we had to send some additional quantity of rice to the district."

SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that for the last four years there have been net imports of 15,000 to 20,000 tons of rice into the district and this estimate, that it is

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self-sufficient is not a correct one and the reports of this Government themselves to the Central Government in the previous years were that the district was deficit to the extent of about 15,000 tons?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"Yes, Sir.

It is true that in previous years we had been sending rice to South Kanara district according to the demands made by them and according to the Government's estimate of their requirements. But when the whole system was re-organized owing to the abolition of rural rationing, we had to work out a certain formula under which some of the districts had to be treated as self-sufficient, according to the calculation which I have just now stated to the House. According to that calculation, South Kanara is considered to be self-sufficient but we are not going to allow any district to be without any help. We have already sent 4,000 to 5,000 tons of rice whereas at the beginning we had thought that no demand for rice would be made by the district. Owing to the actual demand made by them, we have been helping the district. Though we were sending rice in the previous years, it cannot be said that it can be done now because each district, as far as possible, has to look after its own requirements. Otherwise, even the quantity allotted to us by the Central Government or received from other districts will not be sufficient to meet out requirements."

SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"May I ask, Sir, how we are to understand this answer? If in the last four years of average seasons, not bad seasons as we are having in the East Coast, the Government had been giving net 15,000 tons roughly, how could that district all at once become self-sufficient? Are we to understand that for the purpose of calculation, this has been made a self-sufficient district? I do not want to put it worse than that."

THE HON. J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"It is not the case only with South Kanara. We have not singled out South Kanara for this purpose. The calculation is for all districts. But why should we now quarrel that we are not giving the quantity that was supplied formerly, since we are able to meet the requirements of the district?"

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"May I ask whether paddy was not exported from the district during the last three or four years to other needy places?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"On certain occasions we have transported paddy from the South Kanara district to Malabar district."

SRI L. C. PAIS:—"May I know whether in the various correspondence and communications addressed by this Government to the Central Government this Government have not shown this district as a deficit district and wanted the Central Government to act on that information?"

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THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"We have said that the whole State is a deficit State. We have not said that any particular district alone is deficit." (Laughter.)

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN:—"What is the criterion for this calculation? Is it the suffering of the people or the figures relating to South Kanara that are taken into consideration?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"I have already answered this question. When we found that people were suffering, we were sending rice to that district."

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI:—"Sir, according to the Government's calculation? South Kanara produces 16 ounces per capita and the normal ration is only 12 ounces per individual. May I ask why we should not export the balance of 4 ounces to other districts which are suffering from want of food?"

Motor Vehicle Inspectors.

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

(a) whether there are any districts in the State where there are no Motor Vehicle Inspectors;

(b) if so, what those districts are and the reasons for not appointing Vehicle Inspectors in those districts; and

(c) what arrangements are made for Vehicle inspection in those districts?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) There is no district in this State without a Motor Vehicle Inspector.

" (b) & (c) Do not arise."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"What is the agency that recruits these Vehicle Inspectors? Are these Inspectors recruited by the Public Service Commission or are these jobs prize jobs of the Hon. Minister?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The Secretary, Central Road Traffic Board, is the Recruiting Officer and very soon the work will be entrusted to the Public Service Commission."

SRI B. S. MURTHY:—"May I know the qualification prescribed for these Vehicle Inspectors and whether any Harijan has been appointed as Vehicle Inspector?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Diploma in automobile engineering given by the Ramakrishna Institute or other Polytechnic Institutes is the qualification prescribed for these Motor Vehicle Inspectors. I am not quite sure whether a Harijan is now acting as a Motor Vehicle Inspector."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"May I know whether these Inspectors have got jurisdiction to find out the grievances of short-distance passengers who are at once refused admission or charged long-distance rates?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The Road Traffic Officer has that jurisdiction but he can certainly ask the Inspector to investigate into the complaints."

SRI K. LINGA RAJU :—" How many of these Vehicle Inspectors have been promoted as Road Traffic Officers as promised by the Hon. Minister on the floor of this House during the last session? "

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

Number of Livestock Research Stations in the State.

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

(a) the number of Livestock Research Stations and the results of experiments conducted at these stations so far; and

(b) their location?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) & (b) The number of Livestock Research Stations in the State is seven. The particulars regarding their location and the results of experiments conducted there are furnished in the statement^a placed on the table of the House."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" It is stated in the statement placed on the table of the House that the experiment with regard to Ongole herd was not successful at Hosur due to low temperature there. If that area was not suitable, may I ask why it was not started in Ongole itself? Where was the necessity to take them all the way to Hosur? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Ongole cattle are now stationed at the Guntur Farm and the experiment is being carried on there."

11-30 a.m. SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—" May I know whether the Government are getting any subsidy from the Centre for improving the cattle wealth of the State and if so, may I know what the subsidy is and how much of it has been utilized so far? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" For some of the schemes, we have been getting aid from the Centre. If particulars are required, I would like to have notice."

SRI M. P. GOVINDA MENON :—" Has the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture received any representation that the work in the Livestock Research Station at Thiruvazhumkunnu in Malabar is seriously affected for want of an approach road to the railway station, and if so, may I know what action has been taken thereon? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. Attempts are being made to have the approach road constructed as early as possible."

^a Printed as Appendix II on pages 160-161 infra.

[23rd August 1951]

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—" Will the Hon. the Minister take us into his confidence and say at what stage the work relating to selective breeding of Ongole bulls and Murra buffaloes is? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" By selective breeding, local cattle are being upgraded and stud bulls are issued from the Farm whenever they are found necessary."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—" Whether it is the Ongole breed or the Kangayam breed, is it not the duty of the Research Stations to find out whether these could be acclimatized in various parts of the State because necessarily cattle are not to be confined to the area in which they abound but have to be distributed throughout the State where they can be found to be good worthy bulls or milch cattle? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. The Sindhi breed of cattle have been originally imported from Sind. This breed is being maintained in various places in the State and we are trying to spread this breed to all places where it is found to thrive. The Ongole breed has been shifted to the Lam Farm in Guntur and the Hallikar breed to Kurikuppi in Bellary."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" May I know the result of the research conducted at Palayakottai with regard to the Kangayam breed? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" An experiment in regard to improved milk production in the Kangayam breed of cattle is being done at Palayakottai and the experiment is still going on. Certain results have been obtained which promise to be successful."

SRI M. R. APPA RAO :—" In the statement placed on the table of the House, I do not find any mention about horse breeding stations. Will the Government consider the possibility of starting one such station? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There are a few horses kept at Hosur. But breeding of horses is not taken up in a regular way in any of the cattle farms."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—" May I know whether the Government have taken any steps to improve the Umblacheri breed in the Research Stations? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A large number of Umblacheri bulls are being maintained under the Premium Schemes in the Tanjore district."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—" In the attempts made by the Government to improve the livestock in the State, are the Government doing anything by way of extension of pasture lands in the hands of private persons or under Government auspices? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Different kinds of fodder crops are being grown at Hosur and the ryots are being encouraged to grow suitable grass and other fodder crops."

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JANAB M. S. ATAULLAH:—"Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. the Minister, may I know whether he means that keeping one or two horses in Hosur—the last remnants of the British rule—will do? Will he consider the desirability of having more number of horses there and undertake regular horse-breeding?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I do not say that what is being done in the matter of horse-breeding is adequate or satisfactory. This is a scheme which will have to be taken up in future."

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN:—"May I know the number of Livestock Research Stations on the West Coast and where they are located?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The answer is placed on the table of the House, giving the location of the two cattle farms in Malabar and South Kanara."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOWNDER:—"In the matter of the Umblacheri breed mentioned by my hon. Friend, Sri Vedaratnam Pillai, may I know what steps the Government have taken to improve and multiply this species which is mostly suited to the Tanjore delta?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I have already answered the question."

Fishermen Welfare Scheme.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme called the Fishermen Welfare Scheme under the contemplation of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—" (a) & (b) An ameliorative scheme for the development and improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the fishermen is already in working under the scheme Co-operative Societies for fishermen are formed for the supply of their economic necessities, promotion of thrift and other socio-economic activities. There are about 110 such societies in the State. A staff of seven Co-operative Inspectors and two Co-operative Sub-Registrars are working under the Fisheries Department under the scheme and three Junior Inspectors are working under the control of the Co-operative Department."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the average rental value payable to the Government in the previous three or five years is taken into consideration whenever fishing rights are leased out to the Co-operative Societies?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"The previous rentals are the basis."

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SRI B. S. MURTHY:—"May I know whether these Co-operative Societies of fishermen are organised on a communal or occupational basis?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"The fact that they are fishermen societies shows it is done on an occupational basis."

Agricultural Research Stations.

* 20 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the cost of maintenance of each of the Agricultural Research Stations in the State?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"A statement* is placed on the table of the House."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I make a submission, Sir? As the answer is a long one, I may be permitted to put supplementaries to-morrow."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"Sir, I am sorry I was not in my place when called, because I was held up at the level-crossing on the Beach Road on my way to the Assembly. I request you to take up my questions Nos. 12 and 13."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes, they will be taken up now."

Notice to the public regarding the reduction of rations.

* 12 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) the time that was allowed as notice to the public and dealers when the contents of rations were reduced recently; and

(b) the department that was responsible for issuing the order without sufficient notice?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—" (a) It is presumed that what the Member is referring to is the order of Government, dated 27-4-1951 directing that with effect from 29-4-1951 the new and correct ready reckoner fixing the volumetric equivalents of the rice ration should be adopted in all ration shops in the Madras City. This order did not specifically direct any reduction in ration but there was actually some reduction due to the fact that the ready reckoner adopted by the retailers was incorrect and was in favour of consumers. It is not usual or necessary for Government to give any previous notice.

" (b) This question does not arise in view of the answer to clause (a)."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"May I know whether this order was passed by the Government or by the departmental official?"

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THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" The fact that it is a Government Order should show it was passed by the Government."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—" Was the Minister aware of the consequences of reducing the rice rations when he passed this indiscriminate order? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" When the defect was noticed it was thought good to correct the mistake immediately, so that there might be uniformity throughout the State in the matter of supply. We felt that the new system coupled with the reduction in rations would adversely affect the consumer and cancelled the order."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD :—" May I know from the Hon. the Minister whether this reduction from eight ounces to six ounces mentioned in the order has been the result of the Government of India's failure to supply the promised meagre quantity of rice to this State and if so, may I know what steps the Madras Government have taken to ensure regular supplies from the Centre? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" It is only when we found that we would not be able to carry on with the existing stocks until the next harvesting season that we reduced the rice ration to six ounces. We have pointed out our difficulties as also our requirements of rice to the Government of India. We are keeping the Centre informed of our difficulties from time to time and we are pressing them to make a further allotment to this State."

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—" May I ask why the Government have been postponing distribution of rations by weight which is more equitable? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" There again there are some defects. So we thought it better to postpone the scheme."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Will the Hon. the Minister tell us what quantity of rice he has demanded from the Centre? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" The first allotment made to this State was four lakhs of tons of which two lakhs were rice. When the allotment was increased subsequently, we thought that the rice portion also would be raised. Our difficulty, therefore, is that the original allotment of two lakhs still stands and even there we have not got the quantity in full. If one more lakh of tons of rice is supplied to us, we will be able to meet the situation."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Is it not a fact that because the Government did not inform the Centre in time about the fall in supplies they have been obliged to reduce the rice portion of the rations? "

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THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" It is not a question of informing the Government of India in time. At every opportunity, we tell the Centre about the difficulties we face. There is nothing wanting on our part in this regard. Even the monthly quota of 30,000 tons has not been received because of some shipping difficulty. The delay, therefore, is inevitable."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" May I know, Sir, how the Government expect the people to adjust themselves all of a sudden when the Collector of Nellore reduced the ration in Nellore town from 8 oz. to 2 oz. on 25th July 1951 without any previous notice, when Nellore was accustomed to getting full ration all these years? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" I do not think what the hon. Member says is correct."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether Government also take into account the stock available for black-marketing when they are making their calculations of the stock available in the State from time to time? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" I do not follow the hon. Member's speech. May I request him to repeat it."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—" When plenty of rice is available in the black-market and people are purchasing it at high prices and when the Government are calculating the amount of stocks available in the State, I want to know, Sir, whether the calculations include the rice available for black-marketing."

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" In the rural areas where rice has been de-rationed, it was thought that supply would be available. If however one sells to his fellow-brethren rice at unreasonable prices, it is not the Government that could be blamed for it."

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—" Is the Minister aware that the Bihar Government fought with the Central Government for getting sufficient rice from them and saved millions in their State? May I know, Sir, why this Government have not been putting pressure on the Government of India and what will be their answer if the Government of India ask them to reduce the ration from 6 oz. to 4 oz.?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is regarding 'Notice to the public regarding reduction of rations'. I do not think the hon. Member's question has anything to do with the question under discussion."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD :—" I think, Sir, it is a very reasonable question."

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" We are now having ration at 6 oz. and what we expect from the Government of India is something more to increase our ration."

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SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR :—" Sir, are we not always guided by the promises of the Centre in increasing or lowering our ration? Why should we not ask the Centre to leave the choice to ourselves so that we may decide the matter ourselves, especially in a matter like food? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" As long as we depend on the Central Government, we cannot act independently in the matter."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Sir, in view of the partial failure of the procurement scheme in the West Godavari district and also in view of the admission of the Hon. Minister for Food of Madras that he would still require one lakh tons of rice more than the two lakhs of tons promised by the Government of India for our requirement and in view of the fact that the Government of India have contracted to buy from outside markets 10 lakhs tons of rice of which 5 lakhs only have arrived, will the Food Minister fly to-night to Delhi and ask for the requirements of the State from the five lakhs tons? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Well, Sir, we have got our own business here, and if the matter is urgent we have got other means of drawing the attention of the Government of India immediately without the Food Minister flying to Delhi. As pointed out by the hon. Gentleman, the situation is being watched, especially in view of the recent Godavari floods and though we do not have a correct estimate of the loss, we will not fail to bring to the notice of the Government of India, our requirements."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Sir, there is no definite reply from the Hon. Food Minister. At any rate, the Hon. Food Minister should realise that the flights of Food Ministers of other States to Delhi have been fruitful and that because he has not been bullying the Government of India, they have not properly responded. Will not the Food Minister have the strength of this House behind him if he conveys our requirements to the Government of India personally so that the result may be fruitful? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Sir, it is only less than a month since the Hon. Union Minister for Food, Mr. Munshi, was in our State at Coimbatore and all the facts were placed before him by our officials, and when I met him later in Bangalore I had also talks with him and placed before him the facts. If we were to go now to Delhi, we would not be in a position to place any new facts or get any further response, especially in view of the fact that Mr. Munshi was informed so recently."

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—" In view of the fact that the Government very often have been driven to the unpleasant necessity of going forward and coming backward in the matter of the rice content of the ration and in view of the increase in the price of rice, I

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would like to know whether this Government have at any time made representations to the Government of India to give us a free hand to find rice anywhere it is available? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" That has been made several times. Even in this House the suggestion was made and it was immediately communicated to the Central Government; but they could not agree to the suggestion because they have to follow an All-India policy for the whole country and they say that if we allow one State to have a free hand in rice, it will have repercussions in other States."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI :—" Sir, as the plantation estates are without the necessary rice and cereals and as ten lakhs have been contracted by the Government of India and as five lakhs are yet to come, will you . . . "

MR. SPEAKER :—" Order, Order."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI :—" I am sorry, Sir. Will the Government supply 1½ lakh of tons to the plantations or allow us freedom to purchase from international markets? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA :—" We will allow."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI :—" Sir, the Hon. Chief Minister has just now said that he will agree. Will such a statement be made? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" I understand that the plantation labour are recently going in for 'synthetic rice' and I heard from one or two Estate Managers that they have placed orders for 'Synthetic rice', and that if they do not get 8 oz. rice they will get more 'synthetic rice'. Of course, the Government are also trying to give all the help they can."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI :—" Sir, the 'synthetic rice' is only an austerity measure and the Government think we can have 'synthetic rice'. The worker generally wants ordinary rice. Will the Government follow the policy of the Government of Burma which has allowed rice to be freely purchased from international markets? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" We have as a special case decided to import rice from the surplus districts to the estates. That has been made with a view to alleviate the sufferings of the estate people. But if we are to import from outside, that is a matter on which we have nothing to say, because the Government of India have the ultimate voice."

Detention order against Sri Sambandam Pillai of Tanjore.

* 13 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have recently issued detention order to Sri Sambandam Pillai of Tanjore for blackmarketing operations; and

(b) if so, why it was cancelled?

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister):—“(a) No.

“(b) Does not arise.”

SRI B. S. MURTHY:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to state whether Mr. Sambandam Pillai has been arrested and kept under detention?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Sir, in fact we want to know who this Sambandam Pillai is.”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Grants-in-aid to Industrial schools.

1 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state the grants-in-aid to industrial schools granted for maintenance, building, equipment, capitation and stipendiary grants during the last three financial years, yearwar and schoolwar?

A.—The answer is furnished in the statement^a placed on the table of the House.

Grants drawn by district boards in Rayalaseema for village road works.

2 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the total amounts granted to local bodies in the districts of Rayalaseema for laying and maintaining the village communications during the last three financial years, yearwar, local boardwar?

A.—Two statements^b showing the grants drawn by each of the local bodies in Rayalaseema for the improvement and formation of village roads during 1948-49 to 1950-51 are placed on the table. No grant was given to local bodies for maintenance of village communications, as the policy of Government is not to sanction grant for maintenance of roads.

Grants for water-supply schemes in Rayalaseema.

3 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to place on the table of the House a statement showing the total amounts granted to local bodies for the last three financial years yearwar and local boardwar for water-supply and drainage schemes in the districts of Rayalaseema?

A.—Information regarding the amounts of grants sanctioned during 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 in respect of

^a Printed as Appendix IV on pages 165-168 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix V on page 169 infra.

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water-supply schemes in the Rayalaseema area is furnished below:—

Name of local body.	Name of scheme.	Amount of grant sanctioned in		
		1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
		RS.	RS.	RS.
1 Cuddapah Municipality	Water-supply scheme.	500	4,100	Nil.
2 Kurnool Municipality	Do.	Nil.	18,200	9,600
3 Guntakal Municipality	Do.	12,700	11,400	25,600
4 Hindupur Municipality	Do.	3,603	3,608	17,100
5 Dharmavaram Panchayat Board.	Do.	4,100	Nil.	2,500

No drainage scheme was under execution in the Rayalaseema area during the period from 1948-49 to 1950-51.

Loan applications from local bodies.

4 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the number of loan applications the Government have received during the last three financial years from local bodies yearwar and bodywar;

(b) how many of them have been granted;

(c) how many have been rejected; and

(d) if rejected, for what reasons?

A.—The information asked for by the hon. Member is not readily available. The time and labour involved in the collection of the information will not be commensurate with the public interest served.

Grants to hostels in the State.

5 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of hostels in the State districtwar for boys and girls that received grants from the Government during 1949-50 and 1950-51;

(b) how many new hostels applied for grants during these years;

(c) how many of them received grants;

(d) how many applications have been rejected; and

(e) the total number of students benefited by the grants to the new hostels and the number affected by the rejection of certain applications for grants?

A.—(a) A statement^a is annexed.

	1949-50.	1950-51.
(b) 115 hostels.		205 hostels.
(c) 42 hostels		96 hostels.
(d) 73.		109.

^a Printed as Appendix VI on page 170 infra.

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- (e) Number of students benefited were 624 in 1949-50 and 1,025 in 1950-51. Number of students affected cannot be estimated accurately as some of the applications were rejected because they were either defective or received late.

Number of timber depots run by Government in Rayalaseema.

6. Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of timber depots run by Government in Rayalaseema;

(b) the rate at which timber is sold in these depots during the last three financial years, yearwar and districtwar; and

(c) the cost of maintaining these depots?

A.—(a) There are no timber depots run by Government in Rayalaseema.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

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

II.—PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

MR. SPEAKER:—“I have to announce to the House that, under rule 15 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I have nominated the following four Members of the Assembly to be the Panel of Chairmen for the third session of the Assembly as from the commencement of the Constitution*—

- (1) Janab K. M. Seethi.
- (2) Sri C. M. Kothari.
- (3) Sri K. T. Kosalram.
- (4) Sri V. Kurmayya.”

III.—MOTION UNDER RULE 24 OF THE MADRAS ASSEMBLY RULES.

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

That rule 24 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 23rd August 1951.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Motion moved—

That rule 24 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 23rd August 1951.”

SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“I beg to express, Sir, my protest though in a feeble manner so far as to-day is concerned. It is true we have got Government business. I do not want to stand in the way. But it is also a fact that several Members have something to say and there should be a non-official day and, therefore, I request you, Sir, to see that a non-official day is allotted for our work in this session.”

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SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“I want to protest against this kind of taking away of non-official days. Some of us have given notice of some Bills. For instance, I have given notice of my Bill, i.e., ‘Prevention of Dowry Bill’, and some others have given notice of some resolutions and amendments. In the Central Parliament non-official business is being transacted and a day is being separately allotted. Several Bills have been introduced by non-official Members there and have been passed into Acts but here the Leader of the House gives no time for us and just in time he comes and moves for the allotment of the day to Government business.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I am asking for the conversion of to-day only for official business because we are in the midst of discussion of the Governor's Address. We are trying to accommodate the non-official Members as much as possible.” 12 noon.

MR. SPEAKER:—“The question is—

That rule 24 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 23rd August 1951.”

The motion was carried.

IV.—DISCUSSION ON HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS—cont.

MR. SPEAKER:—“I am going to ask each hon. Member to move his amendment and let each amendment be seconded and then we will have a discussion on all amendments.”

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID:—“Sir, I beg to move—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

“but regret that Your Excellency has not been advised correctly by your advisers regarding the continuation of the serious difficult position in the State which the Government have failed to ameliorate.”

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN:—“I second it.”

JANAB M. S. ATAULLAH:—“Sir, I formally move the amendment that stands in my name—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

“but regret to note that Your Excellency has not been advised by your Ministers properly as regards the situation in the State in various respects and the means of bringing effective relief to such a situation.”

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN:—“I second it.”

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SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" Sir, I beg to move—

*'That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—**"but regret that the measures and proposals made in the Address are not satisfactory, and are inadequate to deal with the present situation " " "*

SRI K. LINGA RAJU :—" I second it."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move—

*'That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—**"but represent (1) that a larger measure of relief to drought-affected districts like North Arcot, Chittoor, Chingleput, etc., be given in order to provide sufficient measure of employment to enable the poorer classes to find the wherewithal for the purchase of the grains made available by the Government in rural parts; and**(2) that such schemes may take the shape of a larger measure of works of public utility with special reference to the needs of the rural and agricultural sectors of the society, the starting of more cottage industries, the tapping of the underground water resources, extension of rural electrification and the prompt implementation of the above schemes to bring quick relief in the coming three or four fateful months to the affected areas " " "*

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" I second it."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Sir, I beg to move—

*'That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—**"but regret to note that the food situation and housing schemes of the labouring population are not tackled properly by the Government and necessary steps have to be taken urgently in both these matters " " "*

SRI K. VARADACHARI :—" I second it."

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—" Sir, I beg to move—

*'That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—**"but beg to draw pointed attention to the sufferings of the agriculturists, the dead nature of the provisions of the Civil Disabilities Removal Act, and the necessity for giving a new turn to the Grow More Food Campaign " " "*

SRI P. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—" I second it."

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SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" Sir, I beg to move—

*'That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—**"but regret (1) that the administrative action taken in the matter of procurement and distribution of food is inadequate and suggest**(a) that with a view to stimulate and step up production and proper distribution, each Minister shall take charge of two or three districts and devote special attention and care for procurement in the area and also to minimize as much as possible the hardships and difficulties in procurement; and**(b) that similarly proper attention be devoted to distribution especially in rural areas where there is a loud complaint that the landless labourers are put to great trouble since all the surplus available is sent away to be sold in blackmarkets; and**(2) that no remedies are contemplated to check the abuses in the prohibition policy at present and suggest that with a view to minimize the prohibition offences and to make prohibition more effective, a committee may be appointed to investigate the possibilities of the rationing system to the actual addicts in villages and elsewhere and to arrange to supply with a limited and regulated quantity of drink " " "*

SRI G. KUMARASWAMI :—" I second it."

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—" Sir, I beg to move—

*'That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—**"but regret to note that there is no mention of the self-sufficiency of food, the Pulichintala and other projects of Andhra Desa and also the measures to be taken to alleviate the wretched conditions of the agricultural labourers." " "*

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" I second it."

SRI M. R. APPA RAO :—" Sir, I beg to move—

*'That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—**"but regret to note that there is no reference to the Andhra State " " "*

SRI ROKKAM RAMAMURTHI :—" I second it."

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SRI S. NAGAPPA :—"Sir, I move the amendment that stands in my name—

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but note with dissatisfaction that the Government have failed to meet the day-to-day needs of the people like food, cloth and yarn shortage and the Harijan problem has not been met as was expected"

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—"I second it."

SRI K. LINGA RAJU :—"Sir, I beg to move—

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret to note that there is no mention in the Address about any plan to solve the food and cloth problems in the State and that the Government of the State has failed to function as a Welfare State"

DR. D. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—"I second it."

SRI PYDAH VENKATANARAYANA :—"Sir, I beg to move—

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but represent that the Government should take more effective steps to increase food production"

SRI K. S. V. KRISHNAN :—"I second it."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—"Sir, I beg to move—

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but note with disappointment—

(a) that no steps have been indicated to relieve the distress caused to millions of unemployed handloom weavers and crores of landless labourers who have been faced with unbearable starvation conditions;

(b) that no definite measures have been proposed in regard to the manufacture and distribution of cheap and standard varieties of coarse cloth for the use of the poor and middle classes to reduce the acute cloth shortage;

(c) that no attempt has been envisaged to bring down the prices of essential controlled and uncontrolled articles;

(d) that nothing has been done to induce the Central Government to usher the Andhra State; and

(e) that the policy of partial deratigning launched by the State Government only served to heighten the misery and suffering of the poor and give unprecedented impetus to the prevailing blackmarket"

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SRI K. LINGA RAJU :—"I second it."

SRI V. JAGGA RAJU :—"Sir, I beg to move—

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but represent (a) that the policy of Government regarding food is disappointing and has resulted in starvation of the poor;

(b) that the ameliorative measures undertaken for the uplift of the Harijans especially in regard to housing, are utterly inadequate; and

(c) that the drainage facilities in the delta areas especially in the East Godavari district are utterly inadequate causing damage to crops and fields and thereby affecting food production."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI :—"I second it."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—"Sir, I beg to move—

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret to bring to Your Excellency's notice, the banning of assignment of land in the Nilgiris and the meagre steps taken to effect prohibition a thorough success."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—"I second it."

SRI G. RAJAMANNAR CHETTY :—"Sir, I beg to move the amendment standing in my name—

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added :—

"but regret

(1) that no satisfactory measures have been mentioned to have been taken or are proposed to be taken to increase the rice content of the ration;

(2) that the price of rice has been increased at a time when the people expect the Government to reduce the price of rice;

(3) that there is no mention of any proposed efforts to facilitate production of food by effective help to the producers and cultivators on a planned basis;

(4) that cheap manure and necessary agricultural implements are not made available for growing more food;

(5) that the comprehensive policy and programme of medical relief and public health has not been implemented;

(6) that there is no mention of guaranteeing assignment of lands to Harijans without any delay;

(7) that there is no mention of guaranteeing supply of suitable counts of yarn in adequate quantities to the handloom workers;

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- (8) that it is mentioned that the extension of nationalization of motor transport has been deferred;
- (9) that there is no mention of any attempt to eradicate blackmarketing and corruption which is flourishing on a wide scale;
- (10) that there is no mention of any housing scheme to provide housing for all so that there need not be any necessity for the proposed extension of life of the Madras Buildings Lease and Rent Control Act, 1949, and the proposed amendment to that Act;
- (11) that there is no mention of steps to put a stop to the growing rise in prices of all essential commodities and reduce the prices; and
- (12) that there is no mention of the extension of compulsory elementary education, free secondary education and cheap higher education."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" I second it."

SRI G. KUMARASWAMI :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

" but regret to note that—

- (1) no mention is made of the deteriorating food position in the State;
- (2) no proper steps have been taken to check the soaring prices of essential commodities; and
- (3) no mention has been made of the steps to be taken to bring more land into cultivation by pushing on with Major Irrigation Schemes in Srikakulam district."

SRI M. KANNIAPPAN :—" I second it."

MR. SPEAKER :—" In England, they take one comprehensive amendment and discuss it. Here, I do not find a comprehensive amendment. So, I have allowed all Members who have given notice of amendments to move their amendments. Now, we shall have a discussion on all the amendments. I have fixed fifteen minutes for each speaker."

* JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, while moving my amendment, I wish to inform the House that I have nothing to say against His Excellency himself.

(At this stage, the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

" Madam, as we have said on several occasions, we have the highest respect for His Excellency the Governor of Madras and the Maharani of Bhavnagar. Although they were not able to bring the necessities of life to alleviate the sufferings and miseries of the people, they have at least brought a message of hope and comfort to the suffering humanity. His Excellency, in his Address, makes a reference to the activities of the Hon. Ministers of our Government: I quite agree with him that there has been

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incessant activity on the part of the Hon. Ministers but I ask, of what avail those activities have been, if they have been full of sound and fury signifying nothing to the people on whose behalf they are supposed to administer this State.

" Madam, His Excellency first refers to the report of the National Planning Commission. Before I say anything on that report, I would ask the Hon. Ministers here: 'What are the results of the plans which you have undertaken in the past, what are the results of the programmes which you have implemented in the past; and have you been able to bring relief to the people which you promised to do, by implementing those plans and programmes?' Before trying to implement the long-term and short-term programmes that are embodied in the report of the Planning Commission, it must be the duty and the responsibility of the Hon. Ministers to examine why they have failed, in spite of their plans and programmes, to satisfy the needs of the people in the past. I ask whether the several crores of rupees that have been invested on those plans actually went to the carrying out of those plans. If the Government had calculated that a crore of rupees spent on the implementation of those plans would bring so much of happiness to the people, then I ask, why not the results be commensurate with the investment made? It only means that all the amount invested did not actually go into the plans and that considerable portions of the amount were disappearing before they could reach the plans to be implemented. It evidently follows that there is so much of corruption and bribery in this State. Unless the Government take serious steps to eliminate bribery and corruption, I am quite sure even if they spend crores and crores of rupees in the future, they are not going to confer any benefit on the people and a good portion of the amount will only go down the drains.

" Again, Madam, these plans require lots of money for their implementation. His Excellency says that the Government are going to raise loans. From whom, I ask? From the people, from the petty merchants, from businessmen and traders, from the captains of industry and entrepreneurs in this State? But, I ask, are these people really happy? Your controls are actually killing them, your taxes are simply pressing them down and down. I wish now to make a reference to controls alone. Control, Madam, is in the first instance, demoralising. Control is de-humanising, control is de-spiritualising the people. We have been having this control for the last ten years, and it has not conferred any great good on the people concerned. Therefore, Government must make immediate arrangements to see that they avoid as much control as possible and see that free trade comes into our State. Again, the traders and the commercial community are very much dissatisfied with the tax burdens. We have the highest sales tax burden in this country; we have the highest motor vehicles taxation in this country; and as the Hon. Finance Minister would say, the highest in the world. Even the income-tax burdens are the heaviest. All these tax burdens are actually killing the very enthusiasm of our people and naturally production in the country is very much affected. It is no use the Ministers going about and appealing to

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with vision, with statesmanship and with generosity. I say Destiny still holds the prize to you even as Pallas Athene held the Golden Apples to Paris. Take it and ride the crest of the waves, or leave it to be sunk for ever in inglorious and ignoble oblivion."

* SRI P. NATESAN :—“ Madam, I would also like to preface my observations by saying how much this State of Madras owes to His Excellency for the way in which he has condescended to address this House and for all that he has done for the people of this State. Madam, His Excellency has toured a lot; he has seen the villages; he has seen the starving people and he has seen the bad quality of the rice supplied to them. But what could His Excellency do more than give advice to his Ministers? I want to make an humble suggestion to His Excellency now. He has seen the poor people—the poor people are going to be poor for all time—I want him to go and see the lower middle classes with an income of something like Rs. 40 to Rs. 300; let him go and see the N.G.Os. who live in Todhunternagar or a few middle-class people in Georgetown, in North Madras or in the mufassal; it is only then that he will realize what kind of life they are living. He will then find out what the Congress Government, what his own Government have done to alleviate the sufferings of such people. It is the middle-class people that suffer most to-day. I have known instances where parents are not in a position to run their families; they have got to clothe their children and send them to schools and they have got to find the means for getting food; they have to find the bus-fare and everything else required by their children. I want to know from the Congress Ministry what they have done all these years to alleviate their condition?

“ The bus fare has gone up and the food prices have gone up. Ever since the Congress Government came to power, they have raised the bus fare. In fact, when the private operators were there, it was not so heavy. Even though the increase is a quarter of an anna, it means a lot to the middle-class people. Madam, what is Government for? After all, Government is intended to give clothing, shelter and food to its people and to keep the people reasonably contented, and not to say what it will give in the next generation. But, what is it the Government have done now for the people in the country? I want the Congress Ministry to tell me what substantial good they have done so far for the common man. They speak of a Welfare State. We find the following sentence in the Governor's Address: ‘but we cannot aim at a Welfare State unless we are willing to accept cheerfully the necessary sacrifices.’ No doubt, people have accepted the sacrifices cheerfully. I say this is not a Welfare State, but it is a Police State, because this State is being administered with the help of the police, for whom we have given a much greater Grant than in the years before. What is it they have done for the poor man? Now they are maintaining law and order. That is agreed. But, can they tell me one thing which the Congress Government have done to benefit the common man? That is what I want to know. Such being the case, how can they aim at a Welfare State?

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You are taxing the people. I agree to your taxing them and getting as much as you like. But, what is the return that the people get? You may ask anybody, but not the Ministers. They are running the Government as much as I run my organization. Organizations may be run, in a good, bad or indifferent way. In the same way, they are carrying on the administration, taking the departmental heads into their confidence. Yet, they talk of a Welfare State. I say it is not a Welfare State, because they have not done anything for the common man.

“ Now, Madam, it is said this Government is going to get millions of acres of land under cultivation. My God, if millions of acres of land are going to produce something substantial, I do not think there is need for the Government at all. We can all be under the Rama Rajya which Mahatma Gandhi had been dreaming of. Is this that Rama Rajya which we are now having in Madras? Is it by getting millions of acres of land under cultivation? I ask, is it now the time to take to such projects? Let me tell you, Madam, I understand, that even after five years of planned development involving heavy capital expenditure, we can only come back to the standard of life of 1938. That is what is going to be the effect of the Planning Commission. After spending crores and crores of rupees, it is possible that we shall get back to our life of 1938. It only means we are worse off to-day and there is no possibility of getting back to normal conditions. So, it is really amazing that, under such circumstances, the Government should go on continually adding to taxation.

“ Then, Madam, comes the question of unemployment. As I said, you must remove unemployment. Go to any Western country. I mean the war-worn countries which had suffered terrible destruction, where all buildings are destroyed, all human material is gone. With all that, they have come up and there is no unemployment in any country in the West. I am talking subject to correction. In fact, I have myself seen Germany, Holland, England and France. In France, even with an unstable Government, they have been able to give employment to people. But, what have you done here? What about begging here? What about hospital accommodation? Here, Madam, I must pay a tribute to the *Madras Mail*, which has been consistently publishing photographs and showing to the public how people are starving, how queues are waiting for buses and for rations before ration shops, and how for want of regular accommodation patients are provided with mattresses in hospitals. And, even then the Government have not bestirred themselves. *The Hindu* the other day wrote about Prohibition.”

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—“ The hon. Member can refer generally to the papers without mentioning the names. I suppose all of us read the papers.”

* SRI P. NATESAN :—“ But, I must respectfully submit to you, Madam, that not all papers publish such photographs, but only certain papers print the photographs. For instance, *Shankar's Weekly* printed the photograph of Pandit Nehru with a

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leopard and tiger facing him. Could I not refer to all that? Particularly when the *Madras Mail* has taken so much trouble to give publicity to the state of affairs, should we not pay a tribute to the paper? The other day, the *Hindu* wrote so much about Prohibition. The Government introduced Prohibition with so much enthusiasm and now they find themselves in difficulties. My hon. Friend, Mr. Kothari, complained about the short supply of spindles. Now, because you refused the spindles, you find yourself in a mess. The Government themselves create difficulties and now they try to solve them. That is my complaint against the Government.

"Now, Madam, I shall take up Prohibition, because it is a very important matter and it is just in the mind of the Hon. Chief Minister, because it was only quite recently that he held a Press Conference. I ask him, is there need for a Press Conference and is there any need for an Indian Civil Service officer to come and sit and lecture about Prohibition? This subject has now become stale. Everybody is agreed that drinking is bad and that there should be Prohibition. In fact, we have reconciled ourselves and I have also reconciled myself to the situation. But, what about the question of enforcement of Prohibition. The Hon. the Chief Minister is worried as to how to enforce it. And for that he wants to appoint a Committee, as if all the powers he has already got are not enough. I do not know what to think of this. First, the Government said that the masses were behind them in the matter. Then, they took powers to enter into places without a warrant. And with all that, what more powers they want? Yet, they are not able to enforce it. That only shows the weakness of the Government. They have launched it and when they want to enforce it they find they are not able to enforce it. Now, they want to appoint a Committee. Why not put me on that Committee? I am telling the Hon. Chief Minister that last time the Hon. Minister for Prohibition, Mr. Sanjeeva Reddi, said they were not going to put people on the Committee who had no faith in Prohibition and that they wanted only people who had faith in it. You have faith in me. I am not a drunkard. I want to see that your policy succeeds. But the public are not favourably reacting to it to-day. Otherwise, you ought not to take the trouble of appointing a Committee to see how best to enforce it. Suppose, for instance, there are murders in some districts. Will the Government appoint a committee to find out how to enforce the penal provisions of the Act? I cannot understand such a policy. As my Friend rightly reminds me, the Madhya Pradesh or the Central Provinces Government appointed a Committee to go into the question of Prohibition. Then that has now been taken up, not by ordinary people but at the top level by the Planning Commission, which is going to look into the question. They want to evolve an all-India policy. That is, no doubt, a right move. Madam, men like Pandit Pant, a tall man in the Congress—tall not like our Hon. Sri Gopala Reddi, but a man who has been in the Congress and who went to jail so many times—even he said that this is not the time to introduce Prohibition. I do not propose to dilate further on this. I want to revert

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over and over again to Prohibition, because, I think, I am the only man here to talk about Prohibition. Of course, there is the moral force of the entire House against Prohibition but unfortunately there is no physical force. They have made a mistake in introducing it. But, they will not say so on the eve of the elections. They are now looking forward to the coming elections. They are no doubt going to be returned, as my hon. Friend says, probably in a big majority. But, I do not give respect or regard for the way in which one particular party gets returned. As I observed yesterday, it is all being done on symbols. People do not understand the symbols. What will happen is, the people know that there is only one party and they will vote for that party. These symbols are erratic. Our people are poor; they do not worry whether the Hon. Sri Kumaraswami Raja is the Chief Minister or I am the Chief Minister, because it is not so easy for them to know all these things. They only know that there is a Government. Madam, you may nod your head, but if you like you may come with me and I will take you to some of the villages."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"Do they think that the hon. Member resembles the Hon. Sri Kumaraswami Raja?"

* SRI P. NATESAN :—"It is not that I resemble in appearance the Hon. Sri Kumaraswami Raja. But, what I say is, they do not know these things. As a matter of fact, if you go to England, any man there knows who Attlee is and what he is talking about. But, here have you got such voters? That is why I say it is no credit for any party to get in by a large majority. May be, to-day it is your party and to-morrow it may be my party. I am only talking for the common man, for the middle-class man and for even lower than the middle-class man. The people only want to have good food, clothing and if you can give them some drink, you may do so by all means. It is no exaggeration if I say that one of my friends, poor Dadabhoy, died in a club of heart failure for want of drink. The poor fellow was denied the right to drink. I say the Government are responsible for such deaths. Now, on account of the introduction of Prohibition, the Government have lost 17 crores. But, I ask, is it worth all the trouble and trying to tax everything? Only they have not yet taxed air. Next time probably they may come forward and say to us, when you are going to breathe air you will be taxed for breathing at the rate of so much per cubic foot of air. Yet, they talk of a Welfare State.

"Then, Madam, in the case of Prohibition, they have tried all sorts of things; bhajanas, kalakshepams, community lectures, cinemas and so on and these won't do the trick. The people do not want Prohibition. Vested interests are there. There are people who have made tons of money by illicit distillation. They must have Prohibition, because they want to make money. There are two sides to the question. There are a set of people who make money by illicit distillation and they are certainly the first to support Prohibition. There is another set of people, I mean the poor people,

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who do not know anything, and they will say Prohibition is good. The poor people want at least one meal a day. They are now starving. You should first give them food, clothing and housing, if you really want to do something to the common man. You talk of the masses, but I ask, have you done anything for them? Let the Hon. Chief Minister tell me *seriatim* that he has done one, two, three good things for the common man. No doubt, you have given big projects, but these projects will give him food only twenty years later and that too only for the future generation, by which time I would be dead and I could not criticize the Government. So, I want to criticize them now. What is it you are doing by starting these projects? On the other hand, you are putting only the consumer into trouble, because you buy all the cement that is available in the market for these projects and the consumer suffers. You buy all the steel, while the consumer is not able to get it. The result of this is, it only reacts on the consumer. Yet, I do not mean to say that you should not do all that. But, what I want is, you should do something which can be tangible and the result of which can be seen now. Do not retort by saying, we shall see after the next elections. Of course, you are going to get through, with or without all this talk here in this Assembly. But, we are here to look after the interests of the common man. I say, I talk only for the common man."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member's time is up."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"One or two minutes more, Madam."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member actually asked for only 5 minutes and I gave him preference over others. Now the hon. Member has taken 15 minutes."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"But, I have not finished, Madam. I have got some important things to speak."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"No, no. I cannot give any more time."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Thank you, Madam."

12-45 P.M. * SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Madam Deputy Speaker, this is an occasion for a stock-taking of the five-years' work of the Government in this State. I do not generally flatter either persons or institutions. But in my opinion the conclusion is irresistible that we have done a good job during these five years, though some friends have accused the Government of various misdeeds. There have been three ministries in the course of these five years and all of them deserve credit for putting the State on the map as it were. The law and order position in the State has been very good. Though we have had our food troubles, it redounds to the credit of this Government and the Government of India that not a single person has died of starvation, pure and simple. The number of our schools and colleges is increasing and adequate provision has been made for the many long-range and short-range schemes

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with the ultimate idea of increasing the wealth and productive capacity of our State. These are no mean achievements even in normal times and much more so in the hard and trying times through which our country has been passing in common with the rest of the world. Therefore, I think, the Madras Government and the various ministries can certainly take credit for something attempted and something done. The hon. Gentleman Mr. Abdul Majid said in the concluding sentence of his speech that there was only one party that could deliver the goods and that it was the Congress Party. In the same breath, he said that the Congress Party would have done well to have dissolved itself and gone into the wilderness. If there was an alternative party which promised the hope of a stable and orderly government in the future, probably the people themselves might be willing to try the experiment. I know that people belonging to various shades of political opinion and even bitter critics of the Congress saying that they want the country to progress and that, as the only party which promises the hope of a stable government in the next few years is the Congress, they have no alternative but to vote for the Congress Party. That is the position to-day. In spite of what the hon. Gentleman Mr. Abdul Majid said, as the Congress is the only Party which promises the hope of a sure and evolutionary democratic government, it should be returned to power again in the interests of the country.

"An important criticism levelled against the Government is that they have not achieved anything like a Welfare State. Welfare State is not the creation of a day or two. Even in England, the Labour Party was returned to power only a few years ago. The Labour Government have declared that their ideal is the achievement of a Welfare State and have taken credit for seeing to the welfare of every citizen from the cradle to the grave. A country like England with all its financial resources is hard put to maintain the high standard required of a Welfare State. To-day, with the colossal rearmament programme, the dentures and the spectacles and other privileges that have been given to every needy citizen as a matter of right are being slowly curtailed. A wing of the Labour Party has taken exception to it. Mr. Aneurin Bevan resigned from the Labour Cabinet on the ground that the standard of a Welfare State has not been kept up by them. When such is the difficulty facing an advanced country like England, there is no justification in accusing the Madras Government for not building up a Welfare State. Certainly, we have not achieved a Welfare State, but the ideal is there. We can only march step by step; we cannot fly and attain the ideal without adequate financial and other resources.

"Our State is not a Police State. Everybody has got the freedom to act and talk what he likes. One can criticize the Government as vehemently and bitterly as he likes, and he is not put under the Gestapo or behind the prison bars. Then where is the justification in calling this State a Police State?"

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"Having given credit for the many things that the Government have done, I will turn to my amendment which makes some constructive suggestions. With great difficulty we have secured food for our people. Recently the hon. Food Minister and the Hon. Chief Minister toured the North Arcot district. They found that rural relief shops were stocked with wheat and milo and yet vast crowds of people thronged the gruel centres. Further there was no off-take because the people had not the wherewithal to purchase the foodgrains made available to them at great cost by the State and the Central Government. I want the Government to pay immediate attention to this problem. My district is suffering from drought and privations consequent on drought for four continuous years. The Government must start works which will provide employment to the rural population and thus enable them to earn a few rupees to purchase foodgrains. The next three or four months will be very fateful months and I want the Government to give some relief to districts like mine. I may point out that whereas other districts got a large measure of relief, only one lakh of rupees has been sanctioned for famine relief works in North Arcot district. One lakh of rupees for a population of over thirty lakhs is ridiculously low. I want the Government to be more considerate to districts like the North Arcot district. I know that Chittoor and Chingleput are suffering likewise.

"There is plenty of subterranean water resources in my district. My amendment suggests that they may be tapped for agricultural purposes. Whereas much has been done in the other districts probably because their representatives were more influential and more vociferous, nothing has been done in my district though I have been crying hoarse for years on end to tap the underground water of the Palar basin and make it available to the people. Because rains have failed, wells, lakes and tanks in the district have dried up. The Kaveripakkam tank and the Mamandur lake which together irrigate about 10,000 acres are completely dry. There has been a lot of lethargy and neglect in tapping the underground water resources of my district. I do not say it is wilful; probably we did not bring the question to the notice of the Government sufficiently persuasively.

"Extension of rural electrification is necessary in my district especially for tapping underground water. I see that the Government are going to spend crores of rupees for extension of electricity. A sum of Rs. 17 lakhs has been provided for the transmission lines. I think it is very inadequate and disproportionate compared with the provision under Capital Expenditure for the development of electricity. There are one or two other points in my amendment. As I cannot cover them within the short time at my disposal, I leave the amendment to speak for itself.

"To one point I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Leader of the House and that is the rise in the cost of living. Wages and money have lost their real value. Wages are real only when instead of chasing the sky-rocketing rise in the price of foodstuffs they report a certain quantitative return in the form of essential articles,

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Middle classes, particularly the low-paid loyal non-gazetted government servants, are unable to purchase even the necessities of life with the 'fictitious' wages that they are now getting. Something must be done to alleviate their suffering and also to keep down the level of prices. The other day I had occasion for voicing what may be a very unpopular opinion, viz., that the imposition of a ban on the export of edible oils and fats will benefit the people. The immediate consequence was a reduction in the price of gingelly oil from Rs. 3-8-0 per viss to Rs. 2-8-0, and a corresponding reduction in the price of other oils like groundnut oil and pungam oil. I hope the Madras Government will back up my plea for imposing a total ban with a view to bring down the prices, notwithstanding the agitation that may be started by powerful vested interests.

"I have been pressing on the Hon. Finance Minister to constantly keep in view the avoidance of inflation in the financial policy pursued by the Government, so that the purchasing power of the rupee in the hands of the non-gazetted officers and the other fixed-wage earners may be real and not nominal.

"There is one other point touched by my amendment. We do not have and cannot have very big industries growing up in a short time. In their industrial plan, the Government will do well to disperse the industries in the various districts. Here I am speaking particularly for the district of North Arcot which I represent. What is the use of concentrating industries in places like Madras or Coimbatore? The Government have allowed a cycle industry near Madras and motor factories in Vandalur and Emore. If industries are dispersed, there will not be undue congestion in any place. That is one advantage. The second advantage is that it will provide scope for getting technical training in the industries and also provide employment for people in the various districts. There is also a third advantage looking at the question from a long-range point of view. Modern warfare has taught us that concentration of industries and locating them near the sea-coast are not desirable. Therefore we must disperse the industries and into the interior as far as possible, especially in districts where the employment that these industries provide, will come as a relief.

"One other point, and I will sit down. There is the Krishna-Pennar project. It is said in the Government note that it may cost about Rs. 120 crores. I have been pressing upon the Hon. Minister for Public Works that some device must be found for utilizing 90 per cent of the waters of the Krishna (which is now going to the sea), by connecting it not merely with Madras but also connecting it with Palar in its upper reaches. This must be done in order to save North Arcot. Otherwise my district will ever be condemned to be a district of hewers of wood and drawers of water—not even water but sand. The present proposal of the Government is that Pennar should be connected with Palar down at Kancheepuram, 30 miles away from the sea. I have been insisting that the channel from the Krishna-Pennar must be connected with Palar river somewhere near Arcot or Ambur. I have the authority of a retired engineer of this Government that if there is the will this can be done.

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At a conference held by the Hon. Public Works Minister, the Chief Engineer said that he would try this. I hope this aspect of the question will be kept in mind. Because, I know that if we once sanction the scheme in its present shape, North Arcot will be condemned for ever, and the spectacle of dry rivers, dry tanks, parched fields, etc., will become, may I say, a perennial problem. I hope the Madras Government will pay heed to this question. I have not made these suggestions in a spirit of cavil or mere criticism. But I think I have a right to make constructive suggestions to the Government so that they may act upon them."

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

* JANAB M. S. ATAULLAH:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have moved my amendment with a feeling of frustration and despair. His Excellency the Governor's Address generally used to be a stock-taking of the past, and will mention a few Bills for the future. But this time His Excellency the Governor came out with an election manifesto of the Government and with new proposals of taxation. I must at the outset, Mr. Speaker, tell His Excellency the Governor through you that his Ministers have not given him proper advice and that the chaotic and confused state in this State is due to their ill-advice. The Congress, no doubt, before it came to power, had very lofty ideals, and they are now trying to put these ideologies into practice. We see here a set of Ministers who even to-day say that a step taken forward will never be taken back. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if it is worthy of experience that honest men like Congressmen—as we all say they are the only people who will deliver the goods—should come forward after years of experience that what they have launched on is quite all right, and that there is nothing wrong in the State of Denmark. I must tell them to their faces that sitting in this closed House they shut their eyes to what is actually happening outside. Mr. Speaker, Sir, will it be out of the way if I should say that history has taught us that when a thing is not workable, we must try to adjust and learn to do the right thing. But it is not for these advisers of His Excellency the Governor to come out and say at every stage that what they have done is right when in their heart of hearts they know that it is not working properly. I mean Prohibition. Having lost a big slice of revenue, they have been trying to tax people. The last of its kind is given in the Governor's Address. I must tell them; when they have seen to their bitter experience that this Prohibition is not working properly, they must somehow or other make amends for it. Though my hon. Friend Mr. Natesan has not so vehemently spoken about Prohibition I may be pardoned if I emphatically say that this Government must know 'when it is hard to combat to learn to fly' which they cannot. The Government, I assert Mr. Speaker, will not succeed in this Prohibition for generations to come. And why this Government should pursue this mad effort? As I used to say even in their madness there must be a method. They have lost a revenue of Rs. 17 crores. This is the pre-war figure. This would have increased to Rs. 50 crores by now, and this money would be coming without being asked for it. The bankruptcy of this Government is shown when His Excellency the Governor says in his

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Address that the Government require about Rs. 137 crores for national planning for five years. They want to borrow money. They want to tax afresh. All this would have been met if they had not lost the revenue from drink. Even now I would say to this ministry 'awake, arise or be fallen for ever'. If under the Planning Commission report they are able to irrigate over a million acres of land in the near future, I would submit that this must be earmarked only for producing paddy and nothing else. If the Government are not able to ensure this, they must ensure it by means of legislation. All these difficulties would not have arisen if the Government had not set their foot on everything which the people did not want or which had not been existing all these years. They should have looked only from outside to the welfare of the State. I may with your permission, Mr. Speaker, say that other States are feeling that the step taken by this State has given ample proof of its failure. Professor D. P. Misra says in his note—the two States in which it had been in operation would be symbolic of the results in other States also'. The Madhya Pradesh Government are now thinking of rationing drink. It used to be called 'temperance' in former days. That is the way they should have started. After the experience of the last four years, they are not able to go back on what they have done. It is even now not too late in the day for them to realize this. May I say, Sir, that directly or indirectly I am not advocating the cause of people who are thirsty for drink. But I say that it touches the fundamental rights of men, if it should be properly construed. To-morrow the State may say 'You cannot have your bed with your wife'. Though I am not one of those who have a craving for a drop of this liquor or any intoxicating thing, I surely say what this Government of ours have done is wrong. The result of it is what we are reaping to-day. His Excellency the Governor has stated in his Address that the Land Revenue Reforms Committee had made recommendations to levy a special assessment on lands which grow commercial crops and plantation crops. Surely this will be a way of bringing back all the land that has been taken away from paddy cultivation for cultivation of commercial crops. I am entirely in agreement with the Government proposal. I only wish and submit that the Government must take a more rigorous step of doing these things, and bring lands under paddy cultivation so that the dearth of rice in this State shall soon disappear."

* SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I am not quite sure if there will be a debate on food in this sitting itself, I had a talk with the Hon. the Leader of the House and he did not seem to be quite certain whether in this sitting there would be one—I am obliged to deal with the question of food also which is the most important question affecting my district to-day. We have been hearing from the Press very unfortunate and harrowing tales of poverty and starvation in the South, things which one can hardly dream of. But so far as my own district is concerned, it is one where starvation has not existed, in the past at any rate, to the extent to which there has been in some southern districts. But I was quite horrified to find during the last week in certain

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portions of the district to which I actually went, conditions which had never happened at any time in my life in the district and I shall place them before you. This morning the Hon. the Minister for Food laid down a policy which I hope is not the policy of this Government, because if it is, it is a dangerous one and it is good that the public knows it fully. Asked about the very high prices of rice prevailing in the mufassal areas, he said that there was derationing in the mufassal parts and it was expected that the landlords would sell at reasonable rates to others and if they did not do so but claimed exorbitant rates, it was no concern of the Government. This was the answer which he gave. Let this Government ponder deeply over this. I will just place before this House things which I saw on the 16th morning in my own district in a certain village which is about 4 miles from the well-known town of Mudabidri to which Ministers often go, because there are nice temples of archaeological interest. I examined some persons and I have got particulars with me here but in view of the fact that there are several matters on which I have to talk, I shall not weary the House with details. There were 11 families and the heads of those families came to me and stated their grievances. I shall give one or two instances because that will appeal to our minds more than anything else. Those people were of different communities, Christians and others, cultivating classes mostly. There was also one Christian, who was 60 years of age. His family has got 13 adults and 3 children. He is a tenant of a landlord about 15 miles away. He has to pay a rent of 22 maunds of rice. Only 12 maunds grew on the land. He delivered 6 maunds to the store as per requisition. The landlord would not receive cash for the balance of 16 maunds of rice at controlled rates. He insisted on rice and this poor man had to buy rice at Rs. 18 to Rs. 22 per maund and deliver it to the landlord. Since 12 days he had not seen or purchased a single seer of rice because the price exceeded Rs. 50 a maund. Whereas the controlled rate is Rs. 15 a maund, in my district in certain areas to-day it is Rs. 50 to Rs. 55 a maund. There are hon. Members from my district, Janab Hussain for instance, and I would ask them whether it is not a fact that such high prices are ruling there. That is the story in several other places also. For weeks together people cannot buy at these high rates. The whole rice trade is like illicit distillation from the villages and flows in well-established channels. I ask whether a just Government would allow this sort of thing. The Hon. the Minister for Food said this morning that it was no concern of the Government. The whole policy of derationing is thoroughly wrong. I do not blame the Government for that. It was this House that was responsible for that. A large number of Members spoke and supported Sri Natesa Chettiyar's Resolution at that time and I was one of those unfortunate people who did not vote either way as a result of which I was given a notice of disciplinary action for not voting. But I do not blame anybody for the past. To-day there is no civilized Government in this State. In the Mangalore town in the municipal area 6 ounces of rice and 6 ounces of wheat are given. I will not quarrel about it or argue upon it. But go to towns like Mudabidri which

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are fairly large. There 2 ounces of rice is given and the balance is in the form of wheat and sometimes there is nothing. This town is a panchayat area and there from the 27th of last month to the 7th instant they had only 2 ounces of rice while lorries carrying wheat were passing through that town to Udipi municipal area. In those very areas where 2 ounces are given, Harijan boys in hostels, little children and school-going children, are given 2 ounces but the village talayari, clerk and schoolmaster are given 6 ounces of rice because they belong to the 'essential' services. I came to know that this thing had been introduced only from April and not earlier. To say in the matter of food a child going to school should live on 2 ounces of rice but the teacher and the village talayari must be given 6 ounces, is inhuman and improper. Simply because people do not rise in rebellion, do not do this for Heaven's sake. There are large areas in the interior outside these few towns where not even 2 ounces are given. Yesterday or the day before in one of the papers I read that the Hon. the Chief Minister was good enough to say 'We will give 16 ounces of wheat.' But I would ask: Have you ever thought about the millions of people who are not getting anything at all? I do not to-day quarrel about rice or wheat. Give wheat, if you like, in these areas in my district. I am sure the same conditions prevail in Tamil Nad also. Give them wheat or anything but do not say that you can ignore those areas and give only to the towns. After derationing, the Government take no responsibility. It may be nice but we are ignoring and forgetting facts. It is most improper. For Heaven's sake do not do so. In that village where I spent some time and examined these 11 families, I went to the village school where there were 75 children in an awful condition. At 11-30 in the morning half of them had not taken any food at all. What education are the Government giving them? What nation are they bringing up? I know many speeches were delivered here that procurement was unjust. What are we doing with the rich people? Nothing would be done with them. I say it as a charge against this Government that wherever influential people have been prosecuted, the prosecution has been withdrawn in many cases but poor people have been left to their fate. The police were going to houses and pouncing upon rice stocks. When these were going on, naturally there was a cry, 'Take away rationing.' But now what has happened? Large numbers of people in the villages are starving. There is no civilized Government at all. What all I ask is whether it is 6 ounces or 4 ounces, give equally to all who are in need of it. I am told in Ceylon—I am not quite sure of it—the Government are following such a policy. The point is this. 'Do not compel a full levy from anybody.' I know it is very difficult. When even the grower is not allowed to keep rice for his use, what happens? There is no temptation to grow. Such was the condition before derationing one or two years ago. Let all people who are in need be given 6 ounces of rice everywhere in our State and for the rest let there be a free market for all. This system of 6 ounces can be supported only upon a reasonable and small levy. But let all be assured of something. There are people, whose names and particulars I can give, who for one or two weeks

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have been living not on rice but on eating boiled greengram or horsegram with jaggery added to it. All the people whom I examined are living on horsegram because they can get it at 8 annas per seer, whereas rice is selling at Re. 1-4-0 per seer and even for that landlords are not willing to sell. There are about 500 persons living like that in that village. The whole thing needs overhauling. The Government are not doing their duty and it is a painful story which I have to tell the House.

"The next point is about planning. I saw from the printed paper proposals for taxation to increase the revenues of the State. With reference to the 15-year plan, I would ask: Have all the claims of all districts been considered? Have the proposals been ever placed before this House? Have the opinions of this House been ever invited? I find 40 irrigation schemes in this printed pamphlet, but not one for my district. If you are going to tax, what is the return for my district? All the money cannot be gathered and spent only on certain areas. What is the factor taken into consideration? Out of 40 schemes for the national five-year plan for the Madras State laid on the table of this House there is not a single scheme for my district which has to pay for the schemes. Similar is the case with regard to electricity. I am very sorry that the Hon. the Public Works Minister who is usually present is not present now. Yesterday when somebody referred to the Hon. the Food Minister, it was said that he might be in the other House. To-day five or six of the Ministers are sitting there. No doubt my hon. Friend's (the Finance Minister's) shoulders are broad enough to bear all weight, but some others could be here. With regard to electricity the plan gives twelve such schemes for the State. I want to elicit certain information which I hope the Hon. the Leader of the House would be able to give us. About 40 to 50 lakhs of rupees were provided in the Budget last year to be spent in a number of years in my district for the Jog Electricity Extension Scheme. But, Sir, in the schemes here, there is no mention of it for South Kanara. How are the Government going to justify taxation all over the State when they do not propose to have any scheme for my district? In the Jog Scheme, plans were made for the extension but I also understand that the whole idea is to shelve it. Tenders have been called for for the execution of works; large schemes are on hand. But nothing is being done. Day by day prices of things like copper wire which have to be got from outside are going up by leaps and bounds. Therefore, though the tenders were called for not less than two months ago, they are not accepted. The whole idea seems to be this. It is included in the Budget, plans have been made, tenders are not accepted. Finally forty or fifty lakhs of rupees reserved for South Kanara for this project if not taken up would naturally find its way to some other district. Therefore, I would like to know why these tenders are not accepted and why the work is not being pushed through. Generally on this question of planning, I would ask this. As was said by one of the hon. Members here, when a five-year plan or fifteen-year plan is going to be made, is it not proper to leave it to the new Government, whoever it may be? Certainly some of us

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may not be here at all. I can assure my hon. Friend it is not a quest for power on the part of any of us. In the matter of raising taxes, and programmes for the future extending over a period of 15 years, this is not the time for them when we are barely within two or three months of an election. Better leave it to newer hands; let them come, raise taxes and put through these programmes.

"Let us take the Land Revenue Reforms Committee report. 1-30 P.m. Here again, it is a case of putting the cart before the horse. A gross injustice has been done to the cultivator and this is just one of the things that is responsible for driving me out of the Congress. The injustice to the cultivator which the Congress Government here has been perpetrating in the last several years cannot be gainsaid. In the year 1936, the election manifesto issued by the Congress said, 'security of tenure to the cultivating tenants of this Province upon fair rents which shall be as low as possible.' But what has happened? Sir, the Government of Bombay brought in legislation in the year 1937-38 to help the cultivating tenants and this should serve as a model to other States. I do not blame the first Congress Government because they were in office only for two years. There was a big report on zamindari problems but nothing could be done because the war broke out in 1939 and the Ministry resigned. In the year 1946, nearly ten years later, another election manifesto was issued by the Congress touching upon the agrarian problem in the State. This time, the manifesto went a step further and said, 'not merely security of tenure upon fair rents but also removal of intermediaries between the cultivator and the State on payment of equitable compensation.' Sir, I have no quarrel with regard to this. But what has really happened? When we took up office in 1946, barely within a month there was an enquiry started and as hon. Members are aware, Sri Raghavendra Rao was appointed to enquire into the land tenures in the State. Before I left office eleven months later, I had prepared and signed a Bill to stay evictions but that Bill has been suppressed. I ask for a little mercy for these cultivators because the vote that the State provides for them is really no vote. The cultivators who have no security will be driven away by the landlords if they do not vote according to their dictates. All this statement made by the President of our Republic about the sixteen crores of people going to the poll means little when the millions of these cultivators have no security of tenure."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has already taken much time. How much more time does he require?"

SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I would require just fifteen minutes more, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have already given fifteen minutes. I cannot give him another fifteen minutes. Anyway, let him continue his speech after lunch."

SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I shall be thankful if you will give me just the time I have asked for."

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M. SPEAKER:—"I can give the hon. Member five more minutes after lunch."

SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Ten minutes, if you so please." (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"The House will now rise and meet again at 2-30 p.m."

The House then rose for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

* SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was mentioning this morning about the position of the tenant in my district. In many other districts also, he has no independence and free existence, because in an election if he votes against the landlord he will be turned out of the land. Sir, as it is, no receipts are issued to the tenants by the landlords when rents are collected. I do not mean to say all landlords are like that. But there are many of that type. What I ask of the Government now is, where are the promises you made fifteen years ago in the year 1936 and five years ago in 1946? Why have they not introduced legislation to give effect to those promises? I would like to mention, Sir, how repeated pronouncements were made by my successors in office. Sri Kala Venkata Rao, in the years 1947 and 1948, made repeated pronouncements that such a legislation would be brought in. On the 22nd of April 1947, he took a mandate from the Congress party to bring in immediate legislation dealing with the land tenures of the State. Later on, the report of Sri Raghavendra Rao was published. It contained all materials which any Government might wish to have if they had any real intention of bringing in such a legislation. Then, they wanted time. Meanwhile the report of Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee presided over by Sri Kumarappa was published. One or two years passed that way. Even that report suggested many radical reforms. Yet another Committee was thought of and that was the Subramaniam Committee constituted last year somewhere about March. This Committee's report is also out now. It contains a lot of material. In the last two days, I have myself gone through that report. I am now asking the Government when they are going to redeem their promises. Are they going to redeem at all the promises that they have made to the people? Sir, in this connexion, I would like to refer to one other matter cognate to this. I find in the press several landlords making most reactionary proposals. I am obliged to use this language. I have some personal knowledge about the landlords who make such proposals. It was in the year 1946, in the last days of December perhaps, that I toured the Tanjore district and saw what the condition of the landlords there was. They had not the guts, I know, to go into the public streets on account of Communist trouble. Even in the midday, I know, they would not go. Later on, however, tables were turned. Sir, I think it was in Mayuram that I myself addressed the mirasdars of the place. I told them then that while I would not support the violent activities of the Communists taking advantage of the innocence of the

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Pannai ryots, they should be prepared for a proper legislation in order to give security of tenure and fair rent to the cultivators. They were perfectly willing at that time to give these benefits to the cultivators. But to-day, after beating down all opposition of the tenant classes and after driving out many of them, one is surprised to read the reactionary articles that appear in the press. It looks as if the whole State exists for the landlords and not for the tenants. The point is the Government are showing their obvious support towards such landlords. Yesterday, the Raja of Chettinad was saying that the Hon. the Minister for Revenue was good enough to give the assurance that immediate action would not be taken on the proposals of the Subramaniam Committee. He said that the assurance was good and that better assurance should be forthcoming from the Government. Sir, what exactly is that assurance? It is that till elections are over, the report of the Subramaniam Committee will not be taken up as there is no time to consider it. Is this proper for any Congress Government to do after nearly five and a half years in office? Is it just? They say they have not got the time to do it and so want to put off consideration of the report, as they have repeatedly put off considering previous reports also. It is not fair. They are not true to the pledges they have made to the people. It is most reactionary. I make this request to the Government. Let them take up the question here and now. It does not take long for a stay of eviction Bill to be passed. I would put down one condition here. The tenants should pay all arrears and I do not want that any should be wiped off. You know, Sir, how in the case of estate areas and in Malabar arrears of rent due for more than two years were wiped off. I do not ask even for that. Let there be a stay legislation which will protect all tenants and which will keep them on the land. Even the Subramaniam Committee has made the recommendation of five years period for tenancies. Their proposals are most interesting. They have recommended security of tenure for five years. Even the Raja of Chettinad said yesterday that nobody was going to be satisfied with five years. He is quite right. He knows the temper of the times. Sir, this House has passed a most drastic legislation—I would say, satisfactory legislation—in the case of Malabar in regard to certain matters. This House has been a party to it. It takes away rents by reducing them in respect of dry lands to three times the assessment. I ask, Sir, after fifteen years now what have they done to redeem their pledges which they made when they went to the election platform. What I want is one simple legislation. I have given notice of a Bill drawn up on these lines. If the Government want to bring forward a Bill themselves, let them take the credit for it and I shall withdraw mine. I want that no cultivator should be turned out. Let this House pass a legislation helping those tenants who pay rents regularly. I am asking whether they are willing to do it or not willing to do it. Past history has shown that they are deliberate in their attempt to see that such a legislation is not passed. If they are willing now, I would go a step further and say that in the next one month we will have a major bill passed also. It is not difficult to pass a major legislation on this subject. We have several

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reports, the Raghavendra Rao Report, the Kumarappa Report and the Subramaniam Report. How many reports do we want to prepare a Bill? After all, the major points to be settled can be set down in ten clauses. There should be security of tenure; fair rent should be guaranteed; there should be some provision that landholders should have a reasonable extent of land to cultivate for their own maintenance and so on. There may be not more than half a dozen major propositions to be settled. If this House has the mind to do it, it can certainly sit up and do it and I as an individual Member shall help to pass the Bill to the best of my ability. Sir, we can take the horse to the water to drink but certainly we cannot make it drink.

"Sir, I would like to take one or two minutes more to refer to certain matters of equal importance. I am thankful you have been indulgent towards me. I want to refer to the question of extra taxation proposed to be levied. Unless the major problems are solved, there is no use of this Government coming before this House now with proposals for extra taxation. I ask: where is the hurry for this extra taxation? Why should this Government raise twenty crores of rupees by way of new taxation? Is it to make their successors spend it as they like in the next five years? I beg of this House not to agree to this sort of extra taxation except of course one thing which I think is just, viz., betterment taxes. Large schemes have been undertaken by the Government and rich people cannot go scot-free at the expense of the general tax-payer. A dry land which cost previously Rs. 200 per acre costs to-day anything between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 4,000, because of certain irrigation works undertaken or executed in that area. If not half of the appreciated value, at least a flat rate of betterment levy can be thought of. This is only a just legislation and I support it. So far as the other things are concerned, I feel they must be left to the Government that will succeed this Government."

*SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, many things have been said on the floor of this House in the last few days, what the Congress Government have done and what they have not done. There has been a regular stock-taking of the achievements of the Government. Reference was made to the Bills that were passed by this House in the last five years and Bills that have not been passed. It is all good to do so. But the one most important thing which we should address ourselves to is the question of food. Many a debate has taken place here on this question. Questions have been put to the Minister for Food for the purpose of eliciting information on the existing food situation. He has been practically put on the rack of cross-examination. But what can a poor man like him do? Food supply is entirely in the hands of the Government of India and the Government have to depend on the good offices and the good wishes of the Central Government to feed the several millions of people in this State. What happens now? The Food Minister is unable to do anything. The Food Minister must be a person who has really great influence with the Central Government. Without meaning any disparagement to the present Minister, I should say that the Minister must be a man of grit.

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He must be persuasive. He must be able to fight in competition with the other States and get our requirements in full. I am afraid we have not been doing our best. It is a mistake that we have placed such an important subject as food in the hands of a person who is perhaps new to the job. I say this without meaning any disrespect to him. This subject must be in the hands of a stronger man, a person of great experience and administrative ability, to prove successful. It has been said by the hon. Gentleman, the Raja of Chettinad, that he is a man of patience and tons of patience cannot get even a ton of wheat. Yes, I agree with him. Of course, I know there is a Cabinet sub-committee on food production which helps him and I am told that the Committee meets from time to time and gives him instructions as to how he should proceed. But that is not enough. If necessary, all the three Members of the Committee must go to Delhi. Mr. Munshi, I know, is a very sympathetic man. But he is a lawyer also and he knows how to put you off nicely with soft words. It is no use of writing polite letters to the Centre and getting polite replies that it is not possible for the Government of India to give anything more in the circumstances.

"Nearly five lakhs of tons have been obtained, i.e., 487,000 tons or so by the Centre. And we have been promised two lakhs of tons and of this only 75,000 tons alone have been given to us. What about the rest? It is not as if nearly half of the consignment has been given to us but only one-third has been given to us. At least we must have 25,000 tons more. Why was that not done? I hope there is no difficulty in the matter of transport or transit. If so, we must make necessary arrangements. This Government should make necessary arrangements for the transport for the said purpose. I think there is slackness in the whole administration and we have this difficult situation in food. If food is satisfactory, the very many things would have been satisfactory. If food is available and if food is cheap, then many things could be achieved. Wages will become low and consumer goods will get cheaper in prices. The price of cloth and the general level of prices would go down. It will definitely make the lot of the poor man in this land definitely better than what it is to-day. That is why I am saying that in the matter of food we must ask the Central Government for more and get more. From whatever resources available they must be fully explored to the fullest extent possible. The idea of Ministers being in charge of specific districts is not a new idea; in fact I really pleaded for this on the last occasion when the budget was discussed. The Food Minister must take special charge of two or three districts. He must tour all round and take special care to get in touch with the leading mirasdars and see what the real difficulty there is in the matter of procurement. Why is there such slackness? Will you still go on with the practice of permitting officials to go on with their slackness in procurement? The real difficulty is either they are slack in their work, or they are partial or inefficient in their task of procurement to the fullest extent. But there should not be undue official pressure being brought to bear on the landlords. There must be persuasiveness, smoothness and

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adjustment with every party giving up stocks. It is not useful if you merely pass resolutions or issue Government Orders. In fact I am sure that if Gandhiji were to be here and make an appeal to the owners to give up something of their surplus to the needy, it would have had a tremendous effect. People would readily come forward with stocks. Why should not such a thing happen now? The position is that there is plenty of rice available. People are somehow getting rice. We do not hear of deaths due to starvation. The Ministers should get in touch personally with the stock-holders and they should be persuaded to give up a part. It may be said that the Ministers have lost touch with the masses. That is why I am asking them now to make use of the occasion and get in touch with masses. I hope if the Ministers really do this, tremendous amount of rice would be made available in this country. Every family is somehow or other getting on. Nobody has died of starvation. That is a credit to Government. Therefore, Sir, I make this suggestion, i.e., that the Ministers take a practical view of things and get in touch with the masses and persuade all the mirasdars who have got stocks with them to deliver them for the needy. I am not making a new suggestion. In fact I have made it before more than once. There are about twenty districts or so. Special charge can be taken in respective of two or three districts, in turn. In fact such a system has been introduced by the High Court. The District Judge is in charge of one or two districts. Whenever any particular question arises in a particular district the Judge is able to give information desired. Regarding disposal of cases, transfer of cases and even transfer of persons in a particular district—all these are under the charge of a Judge. He is in a position to give all the facts concerned with his district at any time. If the experiment had been successful in one sphere, why should not it be successful here also? Another question of prime importance is the discrimination shown against the poor people and the rich people, in the matter of procurement. The rich escape somehow. The poor are put to difficulties. The poor man is being compelled to give more and more. We in the courts often hear appeals in this connection from the poor landlords. I will cite only one instance. Recently one friend of mine told me that he had two bags of paddy that could be spared and he did not know why that had not been procured. I immediately wrote to the Minister concerned, who in turn, as usual, forwarded it to the Collector concerned. The Procurement Officials came and in addition to the two bags of paddy that he was prepared to offer, took two more bags for his having complained to the authorities. I ask: Is this the way in which you treat those who are sympathising with you and come forward to offer their help in the matter of food? That is why people are not willing to give their stocks. They should be made aware of other people's difficulties and must be induced to give their help. That is why I am making this suggestion.

Next comes the question of distribution. What is happening in the rural areas? You have abolished rationing in the rural areas, thinking that there are surpluses there. That is why rural

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rationing has been abolished. But what happens there. The surplus is being sent to the adjacent towns and sold at black-market price, which is naturally high. What do the poor labourers get? Nothing but suffering."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has exceeded his time."

* SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Will you please give me two more minutes. One other important matter, I wish to refer to. The question of Prohibition. There are those even in the Congress Party who oppose it for many reasons. Whatever that may be, I am sure that is going to be of immense help at best to the next generation. I do not expect any immediate result. What is the defect with Prohibition? We hear of a lot of prohibition offences, of persons being found guilty because he had been found drinking and so on. There are numerous protests. I have suggested more than once, a way out of this. Those addicts to drink can be counted in each district. It is not a great work for the enumerators. These addicts could be given permits to use some drink. Now you have been issuing permits for Anglo-Indians, Europeans and those persons who want it on medicinal grounds. Those addicts could be separated from the non-addicts. If even in spite of Prohibition, certain persons still cling to this, by all means they may be given permits, to use some quantity of drink. This idea of mine is not a new one. In fact I find from the papers, one or two days ago, the Committee appointed by the Madhya Pradesh Government to inquire into the effects of Prohibition in that State had submitted its report practically on the lines suggested by me."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has exceeded his time limit. The hon. Member Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillay can now speak."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the Governor in his concluding paragraph said that we have to conduct ourselves with a high sense of public duty and responsibility. Sir, I feel that this being the last meeting of the Assembly, I would be failing in my duty if I do not pay my gratitude to this Government for what they have done towards the Harijan community and their uplift. When I look back twenty years ago and see what was the position then and what is the position to-day one has to admit the great change. Ever since I sat with Mahatmaji, a true sympathiser of the Harijan community, I felt, Sir, that the Government and the general public would come forward to do something towards the economic uplift of this community.

"Sir, coming to details, I think there are many things which are still to be done. Taking first of all the question of assignment of land, His Excellency in his speech on page 7 has said:—'Assignment of lands free of cost, house-sites, provision of pathways and drinking-water facilities at State cost are being made to improve their general standard of living.' Sir, I take, first of

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all, the question of assignment of land. Sir, due to the great agrarian trouble in Tanjore, Government realized that they have not moved fast to bring in some measure of amelioration, but latterly, they have understood the difficulty. I may also state that the Chief Minister paid a visit to Tanjore and came in contact with the realities obtaining there. What is the consequence? As my hon. Friend, Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai, stated, not only the Government but even some mirasdars came forward to assign lands for "manikathi" and especially house-sites for Harijans. This is good so far Tanjore district is concerned. But, there are some difficulties prevailing in other districts as well and I do not find that the Government have taken any step to remedy them. I feel, Sir, that the Government must take immediate steps so that the discontent in the other districts may vanish.

"Sir, in the district of Nilgiris, Government have banned all assignment. When the Government themselves say that assignment of lands should be made to Harijans, I do not know why the Nilgiris district alone must be singled out. I know, Sir, and some of the Hon. Ministers who have visited the district know that the reason for this is soil erosion. Sir, the very objection about soil erosion cannot form the criterion for banning assignment of lands. Sir, this banning does not affect Harijans alone but the entire community in the Nilgiris district. Sir, the Land Reforms Committee which was appointed have gone thoroughly into the matter and these are the observations made by that Committee:—

'We are aware that under the policy of assignments laid down in G.O. No. 1523, Revenue, dated 11th June 1949, political sufferers are given the first preference and ex-servicemen the next preference. The landless labourers come third, but they are protected to the extent that land under the occupation of landless poor persons, if it had been occupied before the crucial date, 1st May 1948, should not be taken away from them for assignment to political sufferers or ex-servicemen.'

Finally they says—

'We would particularly recommend that the processes in connection with the assignment of land to political sufferers and ex-servicemen should be concluded in as short a period as possible, say, by 31st March 1951.'

"These are the recommendations of the Land Reforms Committee whereby they have impressed that if lands are to be given to ex-servicemen or political sufferers, it must be done before the 31st March 1951, so that other categories of landless people including Harijans can have a chance of getting land in the districts after that date. Sir, when the Government have been impressing upon the ryots that there ought to be 'grow more food,' if one district is taken away for purpose of assignment of land, what will be the fate of those people? After the quitting of the Europeans from the Nilgiris district, their domestic servants have taken to cultivation and leases have been taken. But, all on a sudden, there came a Government Order that lands given on leases have to be resumed. Fortunately, the Hon. the Chief Minister came to the Nilgiris district and this matter was considered at great length. He was kind enough to order one of the Members of the Board to review the whole position and the Board has made certain recommendations to the Collector to

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see how far lands can be assigned to the landless poor including Harijans. Sir, in the concluding remarks of the Board, it is stated: 'The Board request that the Government may be pleased to approve proposals in paragraphs 2 and 3 above and to relax the ban contained in Order No. 2614, Revenue, dated 28th September 1950, accordingly.' So, Sir, I make an earnest appeal to the Hon. the Leader of the House, who, I know, is really sympathetic, that something has to be done so that a great disappointment to the people in the Nilgiris district may be avoided.

"Sir, coming next to the house-site question, great efforts have been made and the Government themselves have authorized and ordered the Collectors of the districts that there should be an increase of one thousand house-sites and that these additional house-sites must be given to the Harijans. But, if you have a cursory glance of what has been done so far, you will find that not even one-hundredth of this has been done. (Interruption.) Sir, even in the matter of housing, the Land Reforms Committee has been kind enough to go through the whole thing. They have stated—

'The department is also concentrating on those areas where special difficulties are encountered, as in the Tanjore District. If progress is held up by the existence of the condition that the beneficiaries should meet a portion of the cost, or execute a bond to meet a portion of the cost in instalments, in the scheme for acquisition of house-sites under the aegis of the Harijan Welfare Department, we are of the view that Government should waive that condition and themselves meet in full the cost of acquisition.'

They further go on and say—

'In all other cases generally, alternative sites should be provided for them elsewhere by acquisition at Government cost, but the land-owners of the original sites may also, if possible, be made to bear a share of the cost. In the case of tenants or labourers, occupying 'manaiouts' belonging to the landlords, they should not be evicted until alternative arrangements are made for their accommodation and immediate interim legislation may be resorted to for this purpose. It is expected that the arrangements for providing alternative accommodation will be made with the utmost expedition possible.'

"Coming to the very City of Madras, my hon. Friend, Mr. Kurmayya, speaking yesterday, was able to show what is happening here in this City of Madras. Sir, the Harijans were the old settlers in this City from time immemorial. I may say that where there were nullahs and gullies with stones and thorns, these poor people levelled the ground and put up thatched sheds. Later on, out of their little earnings, they built up some pucca houses. Most of the houses in Mackay Gardens, Mohammad Gardens, Teynampet, Thousand Lights are held by born Muslim gentlemen and others and after hundreds of years, these poor people, even though they have been paying rent every month, have been asked to quit the land. Sir, in those days, the land value was so small but now, it has risen by thousand times. Now, if these people are asked to quit the lands, is it fair? The Government, as the protectors of these Harijans, should see that no such thing takes place. My earnest appeal to the Government is that they must come to the rescue of the Harijans in this City. There is a great disappointment in the minds of the Harijans in this City because these landlords are asking these people to quit.

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If such a thing happens, it will be most unfair. So, the Government who have come forward to do something to ameliorate the condition of the Depressed classes and Harijans should see that these people are not thrown in the streets. I feel it is the duty of the Government of the day to come forward and advise these landlords not to ask them to quit. Otherwise, they must acquire all the lands which are held by these Harijans and for which they have been paying rentals to the landlords every month.

"Sir, coming next to the question of Prohibition, many of the hon. Friends who spoke before me have been criticising the Government for a measure of this sort which is considered to bring solace for humanity and which was started at the instance of Mahatmaji and other great Leaders of this country. In fact, if you go to the villages, you will know what the womenfolk feel about Prohibition. Of course, some people do abuse. But, on that account, I cannot agree to the statement that Prohibition is not a success. I feel honestly that it has done the greatest good to the people and Mahatmaji himself had said that the excise revenue is tainted money and that we should not take that money for education and other things. So, not only this Government but also other Governments and great Leaders have acclaimed that Prohibition is a real boon for the poor. Especially, Madras should be proud of introducing this Prohibition at a very early stage. Of course, there are abuses and as a matter of fact, I know that there are abuses in the Nilgiris district. There are some tonics, tinctures and culinary essences containing 70 and 80 per cent of alcoholic content and it has been allowed to be sold freely in the Nilgiris district. Especially people having small petty shops have been able to make thousands of rupees every month by selling these to the utter ruination of the poor people. This matter has been brought to the notice of the Members of the Board and also to the Hon. Ministers who have had occasion to pay a visit to the Nilgiris district. I would suggest now the prohibition of preparations of this nature containing more than 5 per cent of alcoholic content. I think that will be the remedy. As a matter of fact, some people are interested and druggists and chemists may object to my suggestion. But, if Prohibition is to be given effect to, I feel that Government must declare any preparation with more than 5 per cent alcoholic content as prohibited.

"Sir, before I conclude, I would like to say a few words about the manner in which the report of the Land Reforms Committee has been criticised by some hon. Members. Hon. Member, Mr. R. V. Swaminathan, criticised the report and he himself has said that he has not seen or read the report before he made his speech. He began his criticism by saying that the report is a waste. I know, Sir, as a matter of fact that the members of that Committee who were chosen were mostly non-official members and I know they have gone into the matter in detail in order to find out some remedy to the references that were made to this Committee. I request and hope that the hon. Member will see eye to eye with what has been suggested in the report that has been published."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"I have reduced the time-limit for speeches hereafter to ten minutes. Hon. Member, Sri V. Raghavayya, will now speak."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to confine myself to one or two points."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Food!"

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"It is not Food. I fear there have been too many speakers about Food. I should like to touch upon the way in which His Excellency did not pay attention to some of the most essential and burning questions of the day. One such is the fast undertaken by Sri Swami Sitaram on the Tirupati Hills. The fast commenced on the 15th of this month and His Excellency's Address was delivered on the 20th. Naturally, I expected that His Excellency would surely touch upon this question and would give his view as well as the view of the Government as to the formation of the Andhra State.

"I am aware, Sir, that our Government have done all they can to usher the new Andhra State, but the final decision has to be taken by the Government of India. There is, however, one point which has not been cleared either by the Central Government or by the State Government, and that is as to what the next step is. Our Assembly has passed a resolution that this State Government are in favour of linguistic States, but it seems as if that will not do. For, the Hon. Prime Minister of India says that wherever there is a broad agreement between the people of the concerned areas, he is prepared to carve out a new State. He leaves it vague as to where the broadness of it stops.

(At this stage, Temporary Chairman, Janab K. M. Seethi, occupied the Chair.)

"If the Government of India's view is that the demarcation of the boundaries is not agreed upon, then I agree that it is a matter to be attended to by the Boundary Commission. But my opinion, Sir, is that if the various component parts of a State come to an agreement that the linguistic units can be separated, that must be sufficient basis for the India Government to come to the conclusion that linguistic States may be carved out. Well, Swami Sitaram has been taking this view and he has been on fast from the 15th of this month. I thought His Excellency would have done well to make a reference to it in his Address; but he has not done so. The omission, I am afraid, is a sad omission, I hope the Government will now suggest to the India Government the next step to be taken in the matter, viz., that a Boundary Commission may now be constituted for the purpose. I trust, Sir, that still there is sufficient wisdom not only in this Government but in the Government of India as well to save the valued life of Swami Sitaram. He is a great disciple of Mahatma Gandhi; he was at the bar with a good practice and threw away his practice when the freedom movement was started and joined the Congress in the year 1920. I have not come across a more

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sincere, a more selfless and a more earnest Congress worker than he in the matter of serving his country. But whatever may be the opinion of persons, as to the urgency of stopping the fast, one thing is quite clear, viz., that he is so sincere about it that nobody can doubt his sincerity. It therefore behoves the spokesmen of this Government, His Excellency the Governor and the India Government to rush to tackle the matter as early as they can and save such a valued life as Swami Sitaram's.

"I just wish to comment, Sir, on one other subject, viz., the partial de-rationing, which the Food Minister of Government has been gloating about. In fact, I wish to know frankly what this partial de-rationing is. The Government say that in certain areas, they are prepared to open relief shops and dole out rice, not according to the needs of the people, but according to the quantity available. When questions are put on the floor of the Assembly to the Food Minister as to where these people should go to get their foodgrains, he has been consistently using one expression which nobody has been able to understand so far, that is, 'open market.' Sir, times without number the Food Minister has been telling us that in the de-rationed areas there is no obligation on the part of the Government to keep foodgrains for sale, that it is the lookout of the people and they can go and purchase anywhere in the open market. From all accounts, I think this 'open market' is nothing more than blackmarket; and if the Government's idea is to encourage blackmarket by allowing ryots to sell grain at whatever price they please and allowing merchants to sell at much higher rates, i.e., at blackmarket rates, then it is a sin which I am sure the Government cannot afford to take on its head. In districts which are not surplus, where rationing has been given up and where partial de-rationing has been resorted to, the Government have allowed a number of blackmarketers to flourish. Of course, all are committed to it, the ryot feels emboldened to sell grain at whatever price he likes, the dealer is a partner in this sin and the consumer also is equally so. This is a responsibility, Sir, which the Government should not have given up. It behoves the Government to open relief shops in all areas where there is partial de-rationing, to sell such quantities of foodgrains as they can afford. To leave the people at the mercy of blackmarketers and unscrupulous producers is to shift the responsibility which the Government are bound to shoulder. I am afraid, Sir, the Government of Madras have not sufficiently envisaged the consequences that would follow the adoption of their policy.

"I have got only one other matter to refer to, and that is the cloth question. When the Britisher was ruling this country— I am not quite fond of him—he thought it better to encourage the manufacture of what was called standard cloth, in order to cope with the then existing cloth position. To-day, however, several people who go in search of ordinary cheap cloth are not able to get it; and even the coarse cloth called kora which is manufactured on a small scale costs now more than what it cost during the period of the war. I therefore think that this Government would

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do well to urge on the Government of India the need for manufacturing a sufficient amount of coarse cloth, which may be standardized and made available for the use of crores of people who are either middle-class or poor men. This step should be taken at the earliest possible time, because I know what difficulties the people are now suffering in the villages, for getting even the coarse cloth.

"I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity given to me to speak on the Address."

SRI B. S. MURTHY:— "Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was very much disappointed to listen to the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor, because the speech has not faced realities. It was more or less an imprint of 'yes' to all the deeds, good and bad, of the ministry. It is a fact that the country to-day is going through several difficulties and the Ministers here are sitting tight in their office and they are not able to see what is going on in the mufassal areas of this State. Everywhere the people are disappointed and their anger is rising like the rising tide of a river, and we do not know what will happen in course of time if the elections do not come off early and the Ministers do not face facts and give relief to the toiling and moiling millions of this State. I can only speak in a general way because the time at my disposal is limited; it is too little to enable me to deal with problems like Harijans, agricultural labour, the step-motherly attitude adopted by the Ministers, especially the Minister for Public Works, in regard to the taking up of projects in the Andhra area.

"I shall now say a word about agricultural labour. The Hon. Mr. Madhava Menon has promised not once but many times, that he would bring forward a moratorium Bill in order to wipe out all the debts of the agricultural labourer. He is present here and he says he has not 'promised.' But I can prove that he has promised, and he is too much of a gentleman to go back upon his promise. Sir, the condition of the agricultural labourer is deteriorating. Even the International Labour Conference which met recently and to which our Minister for Labour, Mr. Sitarama Reddi had gone, has emphasized that the U.N.O. is very keen about the welfare of agricultural labour. Especially in a country like India where agriculture is the mainstay of all the people, it is criminal to neglect the welfare of the agricultural labourer. The report which has been placed into our hands is fit only to be consigned to the archives of our libraries, since it does not take us anywhere. As a matter of fact, it has by-passed the issue. Who is to be the owner of the land—is it the tiller or the man who invests money—this question has not been dealt with. The report says that a ryot who possesses land on which he pays a kist of Rs. 250 should not own more land. This recommendation, I submit, is begging the question. When you are not able to put a limit on the holding of bank shares, how can you say that a landlord should have only so much of land? If the Government are keen on solving the land question, they must socialize the land; that is the best way of tackling the

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problem. Socialization of land will also remove our present insufficiency of foodgrains. As long as land belongs to one man and another man is asked to sweat and toil and go without food, land can never yield sufficiently to feed the mouths of nearly 5½ crores of people of this State. This question of landless labour has been hanging fire for a long time now, and neither the Government nor the party in power nor any other body has been able to tackle it. The Government should now come forward with a Bill and see to it that all agricultural disputes are put an end to and harmonious relationship is established as between the tenant, the ryot and the agricultural labourer. They should also see that a fair living wage is guaranteed to the agricultural labourer. Not only that; even as the Government are trying to do some welfare work for the fishermen and other backward communities, real welfare work must be carried on for the benefit of agricultural labour as well. There must also be another legislation undertaken preventing the cruel capitalists, the caste-Hindu ryots, from trying to take mean advantage of the helplessness of the agricultural labourers.

"I would like to say one word about the Harijans. There is great variance between the professions and the practices of this Government. They say that Harijans are the pet children of the Government. They are telling the Harijans: 'Ask, it shall be given; seek, it shall be found; knock, it shall be opened'—that seems to be the motto of the Government so far as Harijans are concerned; but we ask for bread and they give us stones. We knock at their door, but the knock comes back on our heads; we seek their protection, but they give us the lathi. Sir, I will give one or two instances. Even the Constitution has given us reservation, but the Ministers are blind to that. In the Engineering College, the Government—as the Minister for Public Works is not present, I trust the Education Minister will take note of this—have published in the papers that 52 seats have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, that only 42 applicants applied and all of them have been given admission. From the district from which the Hon. Leader of the House hails, where some Harijans were butchered recently—not in Buchireddipalayam but in Nellore this butchering took place,—two Harijan students applied, but did not get admission. One Krishnayya was asked to come and interview the authorities but he was not taken. Fifty-two seats have been reserved they say, but only 48 seats have been allotted. What about these two Harijans? I asked the Minister and he says he has called for information. Calling for information means there will be inordinate delay—sometimes even months and years."

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Janab K. M. Seethi):—"The hon. Member's time is up."

3-30 Sri B. S. MURTHY:—"One more point, Sir, Mr. Chairman, and that is about the Public Works Department. Very few Harijans are educated and very few of them are given high posts. One Harijan who is fully qualified has been deprived of his chance of

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becoming Chief Engineer for Highways, while another person, six years his junior and with much less experience and knowledge of the department, has been promoted by the back-door, as the Chief Engineer. In another case, one Subrahmanyam, who has been a Divisional Engineer for four or five years, has been depromoted for no fault. Sir, several things are being done, several things are being winked at and some others connived at. I ask, why not give a chance to the Harijan to live and live honourably and peacefully. This Government will do well to remove the step-motherly treatment they are now giving to the Harijans. Let them come forward and openly say, let the Harijans take their chance along with others. But, let them not profess one thing and practice another thing. Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity given."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Mr. Chairman, I am thankful for giving me even the ten minutes time for expressing my views. Now, we are on the eve of elections. I agree with those friends who have stated that the Congress is the only party in the country that can deliver the goods and that it is sure to come into power again, not only in the Centre but also in the States. But, we have to see our faults and rectify them. There has been in this garden of mango trees, some out-growth of thorny bushes and ant-hills on account of some Congressmen both inside and outside the Legislature yielding to temptations of power and influence, due to parliamentary activities to which the Congress has taken. Our great leader, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, is exerting his utmost to remove all these drawbacks and out-growths and restore the prestige, the purity and the dignity of the Congress. We wish him all success and he is the only saviour of the Congress, the Congress Government and the nation. It is true that the Congress Government in this State has done certain things that are good, for instance, the zamindari abolition. It is a great thing to have abolished the zamindaris, inam villages and the mokhasas that had been in existence for several centuries. On account of this there has been great relief to the ryots living under those tenures. There has also been considerable reduction of rent to the ryots. These have been great relief measures affecting millions of people in this State. Then, the question of Land Revenue reform is engaging the attention of the Government, but there are many complications and complexities in that. All of them have to be carefully gone into and we can be sure that after the elections the Congress Government when it comes into power, will tackle the question more successfully."

"With regard to Prohibition, I do not agree with the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Natesan, that it is a wrong measure and that it is a complete failure. On the other hand, it has been a success to a great extent and there is no question about that. At least 85 per cent of the drunkards have been saved from economic, social and moral ruin. But, still a lot of public opinion has to be developed and corruption in the officials concerned has to be rooted out. So, Sir, the Prohibition measure is a beneficial measure."

"Then, Sir, Harijan welfare and other things have been done by the Government. They have also done several things, for

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instance, the Harijan entry into temples and the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act. But, the other day, on the 15th of August, I found that in the headquarters of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee, there was little enthusiasm for celebrating the anniversary of the Independence Day. It was all a gloom; there was dejection, there was frustration. Why did not the people show enthusiasm; why not they come forward as in previous years? It is all due to the fact that the poor are suffering for want of proper food and nourishment, housing and cloth. I must tell this Government that the City of Vijayavada, which is the headquarters of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee, of the Andhra Communist Party, of the Andhra Socialist Party, of the Praja Party and of every important party in Andhradesa, is full of labour population. Let my friends on the Treasury Bench remember that more than two-thirds of the votes of that constituency consist of labour population. Therefore, let them do their best for satisfying the needs of those poor people. It is the poor people that are dissatisfied. They still have faith in the Congress, Congress ideals and its programmes. The Congress election manifesto is a good thing, but they want its implementation from now with greater vigour and greater zeal. What are their troubles? Their trouble is food. They have not got food and the reduction of the food ration to 6 oz. has made the Congress Government and the Congress party extremely unpopular among the labour population. How can they live with 6 oz. of rice? In fact, labour ought to be given 16 oz. overall ration. Even the 12 oz. is gone. I want to tell the Government that I am living in a surplus district. Vijayavada is the centre, or the granary of the Andhradesa and even there the people are suffering for want of food and nourishment. It is indeed an irony of fate. Therefore, you must give special concessions in a place like Vijayavada, the centre of the surplus district. Why should you reduce the ration there? At least you must increase it to 8 oz., and not give 6 oz. What happened was, from 24th June informal rationing was given up; from 11th August or so 8 oz. of ration was given and afterwards 6 oz. But, what about the remaining 4 oz. or 6 oz.? Have they given any wheat? No. They have not given anything. Daily about 600 bags of rice are to be given there according to the 8 oz. or 6 oz. and the remaining thing is not given in wheat. What is given is only 14 bags a day—600 bags a day of rice and 14 bags of wheat. So, people are starving. I want that at least wheat may be given to the people. Some milo is brought; it is all dirty stuff—some red and brown stuff, which people do not eat and that too not in sufficient quantity. Because they are given something which they cannot eat, they are starving. Officials have become callous. I want a change of officials also, because they have been mismanaging. In November-December there was even starvation and there was a lot of complaint against keeping some officials who were mismanaging ration and procurement. Everywhere black-marketing is going on. So, there is something wrong with procurement; food supply is wrong and rationing is wrong and also the quality of food that is given is very bad.

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I want to say only one more thing, Mr. Chairman, if you will permit me. That is with regard to housing condition. The poor have no house-sites. Many of them are squatting on either ryots lands or Government porambores or Public Works Department lands and they are at the risk of being ejected. Notices have been given to them and they come to us. What can we do? So, they are going from place to place. In fact, some of the labourers have even paid the price prescribed by the Government for the lands they are occupying, and yet they are not given their pattas and unless patta is given they cannot build houses. So, Sir, all these troubles are there. Food, cloth and the housing problems of the poor are the most important problems that are facing the poor people and make them very unhappy and the Congress has become unpopular in their eyes on account of these things. Therefore, I want the Government to take vigorous steps from now at least, even by changing the officials who are callous and negligent and for not doing their duties properly by the Congress Government."

* JANAB M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting the amendment moved by my hon. Colleague, Mr. Abdul Majid, I want to make a few remarks on the Governor's Address. His Excellency the Governor has not referred to one problem facing our State and that is the problem of rising prices. Sir, it has been announced in the papers that the index numbers have gone up by 60 or 70 points. In 1950 March the index number was stated to be 392, but in 1951 it is stated to be 450. This rise in prices has not been properly tackled. The Ministry in the Madras State may say that this is an inter-state or an international problem and that they have no concern over it. But, all the same the phenomena of rising prices has to be faced and our budgeting has to be done accordingly. If you look at it from this point of view and at the recent proposal of the Planning Commission, it will be found that our State has to spend 137 crores of rupees for the next five years. I ask, will not this overspending have a bearing on the rising prices? This aspect of the question has not been dealt with by the Ministry.

"I doubt whether Rs. 137 crores will be enough to execute all the schemes. The prices are tending to rise and the Government will have to revise the estimate time and again with the result that the figure may even go up to Rs. 500 crores. How to find the necessary money? Further taxation will increase the difficulties of the poor people, as they are already over-burdened with taxation. To tackle the problem of rising prices, there is no middle course. We have to adopt a right-royal method. I will suggest the adoption of the conservative remedies of more production, supply of cheap consumer goods in adequate quantities, relaxation of controls to a certain extent and a revision of the present structure of taxation. For instance, the levy of sales tax increases the price of the article sold. Only by the adoption of the methods I have suggested above can we grapple with the problem of rising prices."

8-45
P.m.

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"I now turn to the means of finding the necessary money for pushing through the development schemes. The Government hope to get some money from the levy of estate duties, collection of betterment fees on lands benefited by irrigation works, enhancement of assessment on lands growing commercial crops and the levy of a surcharge on holdings paying an assessment of over Rs. 150. I find that tea, coffee and cardamom have been omitted from commercial crops. The Government may have some reason for the omission. The Government should include these plantations under commercial crops in enhancing the assessment on lands growing commercial crops. With regard to the surcharge on holdings, I will only say that it will land us in great difficulties in actual working. The basis for the surcharge is the assessment of the holding. A holding may be held not only by a single individual but also by a number of people. I do not agree to the levy of the surcharge at present. But if at all it is to be levied, I say that it must be levied on all persons.

"With regard to betterment fees, I suggest that the factors which contribute to the increase in the value of the land should be gone into by a committee before the fee is levied. The factors are not the same in all places. In one place it may be due to the improvement of communications and in another place it may be due to the execution or improvement of irrigation works. In a majority of cases, so far as I know, the real cause for the increase in the value of the holding is due to the rising prices. A committee should investigate the factors and see what unearned income should be taxed for the benefit of the State.

"Having offered these remarks, I ask whether the present is an opportune time for levying new taxes. People have been taxed to the utmost limit of their ability to bear. The cry has been for withdrawing the sales tax levied on the necessities of life. Ultimately the burden of these new taxes and estate duty will fall on the poor and middle class people."

* MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ :—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, allow me to add my quota of praise and thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his keen and active interest in the administration of this State and for his illuminating and encouraging Address. As a retrospect of the efforts of his Government to tackle the several problems affecting the welfare of the citizens of this State, I think one must concede that it is a fair appraisal of the achievements of this Government, which this Government may legitimately take credit for and be justly proud of. There appears to be a tendency to decry every action of the Government and taboo it as a colossal failure. Much of the sting in the criticism so levelled is lost because of this misguided attitude. Credit must be given where credit is due and constructive criticism must be offered. One must not lose sight of the fact that this Government assumed responsibility for the administration of the State at a critical period in its history. There was the aftermath of the Great world war which shook Europe to its very foundations and had its repercussions on the whole world. Coming nearer home, there were several adverse seasonal conditions which added to the difficulties. The Communist

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menace aggravated matters and called for a supreme effort in the maintenance of law and order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the citizens of the State. Faced with tremendous difficulties, this Government acted or at any rate must be deemed to have acted in the best interests of the people. It must be said to their credit that they have achieved commendable results in certain directions commensurate with the difficulties with which they were beset. Personally I do not think that any other set of people occupying the Treasury Bench could have done better. I hope that the party in power, notwithstanding its many shortcomings, will come out victorious in the elections with a comfortable majority, as that way alone lies the hope of a stable Government in the State.

"Having given credit where credit is due, I must say that this Government have failed miserably in handling the food and housing problems in this State. All are agreed that there is acute shortage of food. The ever-increasing acuteness is due to the fact that the portfolio is handled by a very junior and inexperienced Minister. The portfolio must be entrusted to a senior Minister who can force his will on the Union Government. The hon. Food Minister's voice is not at all heard and the Hon. Sri Munshi does things in his own way. As long as the portfolio continues to be in the hands of the present Food Minister, the problem will never be solved. The whole Government must shoulder the responsibility and see that the Central Government give us the bulk of their rice imports as the people here are predominantly rice eaters. Only by supplying enough rice can relief be brought to the people.

"I now turn to the housing problem. The people of my community are in the unfortunate position of not owning any houses. We are at the mercy of the landlords. Some landlords are gentlemanly; but many are unscrupulous and they go on raising the rents. Then comes the plea of possession for owner's occupation. It has become a common thing to see the furniture of tenants being thrown out in the streets. In spite of the time allowed by the Rent Controller, the tenants are not able to secure accommodation and shift elsewhere. The Government should first build quarters for their own officers and thus release the houses which they are now occupying for the occupation of the public. Then they should also build quarters for the occupation of the public. I hope that this question will receive the attention that it deserves.

"With these remarks, I reiterate my thanks to His Excellency the Governor."

* SRI S. NAGAPPA :—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I heard His Excellency's speech, I was very much disappointed, particularly with paragraph 12 which deals with the amelioration of the lot of the Harijans and other Backward Classes. His Excellency was pleased to say that his Government have been doing all that is possible to eradicate untouchability and that untouchability has been almost eradicated. Let me quote one incident which occurred in my district. The poor Harijans wanted to take a marriage procession. They were not allowed to do so and the Harijans then sought police protection. The procession was taken. The leader of the Harijans of that village was murdered within a few weeks

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and the Government have not given any protection. The poor Harijans' fate was that. The Government or the Police Department have not cared to investigate as to who was responsible for the murder of this Harijan. The Deputy Superintendent of Police who took some interest in the matter wanted to investigate. Somebody ran up to the Government, pulled the strings and immediately that officer was transferred and the case deferred on the plea that no evidence was forthcoming. This is the amelioration and protection that the Government are giving! His Excellency comes forward and says that untouchability has been almost eradicated. Is there truth in that statement, I ask?

4 p.m. "Sir, I now come to the assignment of lands. If the Government have courage, let them come forward and give the figures of the number of acres given to Harijans. They say in a general sense that so many acres of land have been assigned to Harijans in this district and that district. Only the tall talk has been going on that they have done these things but the fact is that they have only bluffed and deceived us. I tell the Government, they have bluffed enough and they cannot bluff like this for all time to come. They can only bluff and they cannot act for the cause of Harijans and they are bluffers."

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU :—"On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member Mr. Nagappa has used the word 'bluffers'. I want to know whether the word 'bluffer' is parliamentary or unparliamentary."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—"Is there any point of order in this?"

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Janab K. M. Seethi) :—"May I know, whether the hon. Member has used the word 'bluffers' with reference to Ministers."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—"Yes, Sir."

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Janab K. M. Seethi) :—"Then, I would request him to withdraw unconditionally the word 'bluffers' which he has used."

* SRI S. NAGAPPA :—"I withdraw it."

"The Government have been telling the Harijans that they are giving legal aid whenever they are oppressed by the Caste Hindus and are involved in litigation. May I ask them, to give me one concrete case in which they have given this protection. In one district alone, 23 murders were committed and a majority of the victims were Harijans or people belonging to the Backward Classes. I ask, what the police people had done at that time? They did not take any steps to investigate the case. On the other hand, they were very clever and they took money from both parties to the case and frame charges in such a way that case would not stand in a court of law. Sir, this is the game that is going on in the districts. Is this the protection that they give? In this connexion, I should like to draw the attention of the Government to illicit distillation of liquor that is going on in the rural parts of the State, encouraged and connived at by the influential and rich

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agriculturists and village officers. Have the police taken any action to prevent this illicit distillation? They have not even cared to investigate the case if and when it is reported to them. On the other hand, they prosecute poor Harijans for being involved in this nefarious trade, and the actual culprits go scot-free. There is no law and order but there is only lawlessness in the rural parts.

"Sir, now I come to the eviction of Harijans from their lands. My hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, also told us how, in the name of assigning lands to political sufferers, lands that have been cultivated by poor Harijans for the last ten years and more have been taken away from them and given to political sufferers. In fact, to-day I received representations from the poor Harijans of the Anantapur and Kurnool districts to the effect that policemen are being used to evict these people from their lands."

"Sir, I now come to the question of admission of Harijan students to the colleges. Government have reserved 15 and 20 per cent of the total seats in a college to Harijans and Backward classes, respectively. The Constitution provides that reservation of seats should be made on the population basis but the Government have reserved only 15 per cent for the Harijans. As these people are backward educationally, they must be given more weightage in the matter of admission to educational institutions and 50 to 60 per cent of the seats should be reserved for them. That apart, when they are admitted into the college, they are given only the third group but have been refused the first and second groups. Of course, the Hon. Minister for Harijan Welfare would have interfered and given some students first and second groups but in the majority of cases they are given only the third group."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—"On a point of information."

* SRI S. NAGAPPA :—"I am not yielding."

"Sir, most of the students admitted do not get scholarship. Even if they get scholarships, they are denied hostel accommodation. They are not given free meals but are given Rs. 15 or Rs. 30 each for food. Is this amount sufficient especially in a big city like Madras. At least Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 is necessary for every student."

"I now come to elections. The Hon. Minister says that it will be a fair and just election. Sir, I doubt it because these Ministers have been often touring the districts solely for electioneering purposes and they are canvassing support for their candidates. In the interests of justice and fairness, I request the Hon. Ministers to cease touring the districts at the expense of the public money. Not only that, they create groups and faction wherever they go. If they are not prepared to resign before the elections, let them at least stop touring. With these words, I close my speech."

* SRI K. LINGA RAJU :—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, His Excellency's Address is almost a summary of the ministerial speeches that we have been hearing of late and, in short, it is a small catalogue of the new taxes that we are going to have and the new legislative measures that are going to be rushed through in this House. His

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Excellency made a fervent appeal that, because the Government were aiming at a Welfare State, the proposed taxes should be borne with patience. This reminds me of a custom in our marriage function in which the bridal couple are asked to worship the star Arundathi. An young man who borrowed six thousand rupees for his marriage expenses exclaimed 'Oh! I do not see Arundathi; I see only the debt of six thousand rupees.' Similar is the feeling of the common man to-day when he is asked to pay more taxes and wait patiently for the realization of the Welfare State about which our leaders from Shri Jawaharlal Nehru down to our Ministers are talking so much. When people ask for food, we only give them Grow More Food Schemes on paper which are never executed. They demand more cloth, but they are given only schemes for more ambitious production with more of spindles. Not a single yard of additional cloth is available to them and yet more cloth is being exported to other countries. We learn from newspaper reports that twenty-five per cent of the production is reserved for export purposes perhaps to build up dollar reserves, the use of which we are not aware of. The result is that we are suffering from cloth shortage.

" Sir, much has been said about the housing problem. Houses are built only for the richer classes. Certainly the poor have no place at Adyar and in the name of the revered Father of our Nation, houses costing more than Rs. 15,000 are being built decidedly to benefit the rich. I know that the position is similar in some mufassal towns also. If the Government have surplus money for constructing houses for the rich, they may more usefully spend it on the execution of small irrigation schemes which will yield quick results in food production.

" Sir, we are on the eve of general elections. There is a widespread feeling among the people that the Government are not moving towards a Welfare State, and that the State has only a Government of the party, by the party, in the interests of the party. I shall give one or two illustrations to show that this feeling is justified. The Government are interfering in the day-to-day administration of even panchayat boards. There is a panchayat board called the Bhogapuram Panchayat Board in the East Godavari district. The President of that Panchayat Board has not obliged the ministerialist party by giving his vote to its nominee in a District Congress election. So attempts were made to supersede that panchayat. The matter was raised on the floor of this House and I must say to the credit of the Hon. Chief Minister, that the proposed action was deferred. Now the Government are again at his throat. The matter was taken to the notice of the A.I.C.C. at Delhi. A letter comes from Delhi to the Hon. Minister who forwards it to the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils who is a very convenient gentleman and now notice has been served on the President demanding to show cause why he should not be removed from office. Such small matters do not merit interference from such high quarters as Delhi. A similar thing is happening in respect of the President of the Tuni Panchayat Board. Again, Sir, something contrary to this is also

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happening in the case of partymen in power. In a place called Draksharama, charges of misappropriation were levelled against the President of the Panchayat Board, and on enquiry by the local officers they were confirmed. But the matter is kept pending simply because he happens to be a partymen. I can give innumerable similar instances but I cannot give them within the short time at my disposal.

" Sir, some credit has been taken by my hon. Friends on the other side, particularly the mover of the motion, for the several things done for the Harijans. There are many instances where the Harijans have been dispossessed of their lands which they have been enjoying for more than ten years and twenty years. In Gantipeddapudi, in my district, the Harijans were cultivating a plot of poramboke land since 1942. Some influential persons of the locality wanted to dispossess the Harijans of that land on the pretext that it was required for laying a cart-track. The land in question is wide enough and the Harijans have left a strip of land sufficient for laying a wide cart-track. The Collector, who went into the case personally, was of the opinion that no interference was called for. When the Britishers were ruling this country, the opinion of the Collector was almost final. Here again, Delhi interfered and the Collector's opinion has been set aside by the Government with the result that the Harijans have been dispossessed of their land. As I was starting for Madras to attend the Assembly session, I received a letter from the Harijans of Kolamuru, a village near Rajahmundry, to the effect that the lands which they were enjoying for the last fifteen or twenty years had been taken away for assignment to a political sufferer whom I myself do not know. These are hard cases in which the Government failed to do justice to Harijans.

" Sir, we are proud about the abolition of zamindari system. Even though zamindaris are abolished, the position of the ryots there has not improved. Eviction of tenants is going on merrily as before. As my hon. Friend, Sri K. R. Karanth, has dealt with the matter at length, I do not propose to go into it. Leave alone the zamindars. The Government also have been adopting the same method of eviction as that adopted by the zamindars for recovering possession of lands. I will give the instance of Mulakalanka, a rich zamindari village in my taluk. Lands in the enjoyment of the ryots from 1870 were resumed by the Government who got them in a piece of litigation. The local authorities say that they are helpless because the law is against them.

" One word about our projects. It has been our misfortune to be continuously agitating for the construction of projects. We have agitated for the Ramapadasagar Project. Wise men have been saying that the smaller projects are the enemies of bigger projects. We have been clamouring for bigger projects and our smaller projects have been neglected. Ramapadasagar which will solve our food problem for ever has been by-passed by bringing in the Krishna-Pennar Project. Krishna-Pennar Project has put an end to the Pulichintala Project. First part of Krishna-Pennar Project is

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sought to be taken up to supply water to Madras and perhaps also to the Palar river about which Sri V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar was very anxious. The result will be that Krishna water will not be available to the people of the Krishna district. They will have floods and people of other districts will have the water. If the Government are serious in implementing a good irrigation plan, they must bring the waters of the Godavari into the Krishna, the waters of the Krishna into the Pennar, and the waters of the Pennar into the Palar. We have no objection to such an arrangement, as we consider the whole country as one unit. There need not be any quarrels over this issue. I would welcome if the matter is entrusted to the Government of India and not be handled by the State Government in this manner.

"Sir, I now turn to rural water-supply. I have a grievance against the Government for their not executing the Chagalnad Water-supply Scheme as yet. It is five years since we asked for drinking water-supply to a number of villages about five miles from Rajahmundry, which is called Chagalnad. Though there is a river within five miles of that place, there is no drinking water for the people there. We cannot get underground water even if we go three hundred feet deep. The water-supply scheme has been investigated thoroughly by an Assistant Engineer and has now reached the stage of design. Some gentleman somewhere raised the question: 'Have you tried to tap the underground water?' The matter was referred to the Industries Department which said that tapping of underground water was impossible. A great Chief Engineer who knows the country very well and who is not an utter stranger to this country refers the matter to the Geological Survey of India. The geological survey will take its own time to give its verdict. For the next summer, the people of the area will have no drinking water. They do not ask for water for irrigation; they want water for drinking. Yet the scheme is slowly deferred. This and similar acts make the people become desperate, despondent and even dejected, and no wonder people have lost faith in this Government."

SRI M. R. APPA RAO:—Mr. Chairman, Sir, His Excellency the Governor has treated us to a good speech giving us our past achievements and future hopes. His speech mainly deals with our State Planning which requires Rs. 187 crores. In almost all Governments all over the world, this planning has come to stay. First planning was used for developing in Soviet Russia. If we examine planning in Soviet Russia, we will find that for the development of planning and its successful operation, popular co-operation is absolutely necessary. Though in Soviet Russia there is dictatorship, as far as planning is concerned, popular support is there. In our Government if planning should succeed, it must have the popular support. No plan can be forced on an unwilling people. So, for the success of this plan popular support is the *sine qua non*. This is a democratic Government. We must have the Government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The most important thing for a Government of the people is that the

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language of the State must be their mother tongue. That is why I gave notice of an amendment to His Excellency the Governor's Address stating that we regret the absence of any reference in it to the Andhra State. Our Government has done everything in their power, and our Chief Minister has said that they have done everything that could be done. But this problem has come into prominence by Swamy's fast. It has not been referred to in the Address. Be that as it may. It only makes the topic topical. But quite apart from this, we want our projects. If we think of any national development, projects are absolutely necessary for this separate State. When the Congress Working Committee has passed a resolution asking the Central Government to appoint a Boundary Commission, and our Prime Minister has stated that he has no objection, I do not think there is any major difficulty to be solved. The only thing that is necessary is that our Government should once again write that something must be done before the elections. When all other parties, namely, the Socialists, the Communists, etc., are making this as one of the main planks of their programme, if the Congress Government do not do anything about it, it will reflect on them badly.

"Coming to zamindari problem, Sir, I say that the Zamindari Abolition Act has been passed, and there is not much to be said about it. But some defects have been found in its working. They must be solved. The most important thing is about pasture lands. Some zamindars have pasture lands. These lands are not communal lands or forest lands. When a landholder has got about 75 or 100 acres of land, about 25 acres or one-fourth of his holding will be pasture lands and the rest will be lands under cultivation. These twenty-five acres are his own farm land. I want to emphasise once again that these lands are not communal lands or forest lands. But on account of the misinterpretation of the Act, pattas are not being given to the landholders for these lands. I want the Government to examine this question and see that the defects are remedied.

"Sir, the landholders have granted some lands to Harijans. They were given some 15 or 20 years ago. Now an order has been issued by the Collector of Krishna that these Harijans should be evicted from those lands. What I say is that the Government need not do anything to the landholder, but the poor Harijans who have two acres or four acres of land must be treated sympathetically and on a different basis. This question must be examined by the Government and necessary orders passed early.

"Coming to another important thing, namely, the projects, we are very glad and we must congratulate this Government on the Krishna-Pennar Project. The Ramapadasagar Project and Krishna-Pennar Project occupy No. 2 and No. 1 priorities. The first stage plan of the Krishna-Pennar Project estimates Rs. 5,200 lakhs and the full plan is estimated at Rs. 12,500 lakhs. The Ramapadasagar first stage plan is estimated at Rs. 5,500 lakhs and the second stage plan is estimated at Rs. 5,150 lakhs. Besides these, there are other small projects in Krishna district like Budameru Project. This is a very important project, and it finds a place in the plan. This is

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given the 19th priority. I wish this were given the third or fourth priority. There is the Krishna Reservoir Project. This project seems to be very good. It is a medium size project. Its advantages are very many. It has the capacity to irrigate 16 lakhs of acres of first crop and 10 lakhs of acres of second crop. This project will generate one million kilo watts of electrical energy which can be used for lifting water. This project is easy of execution, because Rs. 6 crores are required in the first stage and then another Rs. 12 crores in the second stage. Out of this expenditure, Rs. 15 crores can be raised by voluntary contributions. A capital outlay of Rs. 18 crores will produce an annual agricultural wealth of Rs. 28 crores. This is such an attractive project. This does not find a place in our 15-year plan. I say that most of the expenditure can be raised by voluntary contribution and betterment levy. It can find a place in the 15-year plan. So, this project must be given immediate attention.

"Coming to the educational policy of the Government, Sir, we feel that compulsory primary education is absolutely necessary if our Constitution is to be implemented, because under the Constitution within 10 or 15 years everybody must be educated. At the present rate, I do not know even within 50 years our people will become educated. We must have more primary schools. To give primary education, we must have the personnel, for training whom we must have colleges. There are many private colleges. These colleges on account of the increase in cost are not able to make both ends meet. This is really the responsibility of the Government. So, private colleges must be given more grants than what is provided for in the budget.

"Regarding our national highways, His Excellency the Governor's Address deals with the achievements of this Government, but the national highways are not the concern of our State. A road bridge over Krishna is an absolute necessity, and after it is constructed, there will be great traffic on the bridge, and there will be lot of improvement both in the Guntur and Krishna districts. We see from the report circulated to us that the national highways are the responsibility of the Central Government. They are not being looked after by them, and our Government are asked to bear the burden of the national highways. This is not fair. We must see that the Central Government looks after the national highways.

"Finally, I come to the question of law and order in our State. The Government have done well in this respect. Without law and order, which is the first priority, we cannot do anything. All other things occupy only the second place.

"Sir, prohibition is really a great thing, and even with this one single measure, we can be proud of what we have achieved. It is said that we have lost Rs. 17 crores. We have not lost it, but we have given it to the people. The people are given Rs. 40 crores by this Congress Government every year by abolishing drink. Seeing our achievements in the past and also our future hopes, I think, we have done good to the people, and I am sure that the Congress will come out with flying colours in the next elections."

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* SRI G. KUMARASWAMI:—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, while sincerely thanking His Excellency the Governor of Madras for giving a very valuable Address to both Houses of the Legislature the other day, I would like to make a few observations on some of the details therein. In matters of Harijan uplift, in matters of irrigation, in matters of expansion of education, in matters of rural welfare, and in so many other matters, he has given a very valuable Address indeed. I indeed gave notice of an amendment, because no mention was made of food. The deplorable condition of food situation certainly had to be dealt with. In matters of irrigation, I am glad that Vamsadhara scheme estimated to cost Rs. 6½ crores occupies the 8th place in the 15-year plan. I mean in the 52 projects mentioned therein, it occupies the 8th place. In my district of Srikakulam there are twelve taluks out of which only four are channel fed. If the Vamsadhara scheme materialises, about 2½ lakhs of acres of land can be brought under cultivation very easily and almost all the taluks can become channel fed. Then, Sir, there are so many other major irrigation schemes which, if worked out, will solve the food problem easily.

"Coming to education, Sir, I would like to thank the Government for having come forward with an amount of 11½ crores of rupees to be spent on education. In 1945-46 there were only 4,20,000 boys and girls in primary schools and in 1949-50 the strength was 6 lakhs. In the matter of secondary education, the strength of boys and girls in schools in 1945-46 was very low indeed, but now it is 6 lakhs. Regarding colleges, the strength of boys and girls was 29,000 in 1945-46 but now it is 43,000. In all, 6,43,000 and odd were given education in our state in 1950. This year the Government were good enough to open seven colleges in Andhra Pradesh itself. The College at Srikakulam is a Government Arts College which was recently opened. There has been an agitation for a College at Srikakulam since January 6, 1946 and I gave notice of some interpellations for locating a college at Chicakole in 1948-49 and 1950. Then the whole district was one Visakhapatnam district whose area was about 10,000 square miles, and the district was bifurcated on the 15th August 1950, i.e., on the Independence day last year, constituting a separate district for Srikakulam because the whole district was a very vast one with a population of about 43 lakhs. There was no college for Srikakulam at all till recently and I thank the Hon. the Chief Minister, the Hon. the Education Minister and the Hon. the Finance Minister for having recognized the fact that Srikakulam district was the only district in the State of Madras which had not got a college of its own and for having made it a point to see that a college was opened there. One of my hon. Friends was stating on the floor of this House yesterday that Srikakulam was having a college of its own because the Congress leaders in Srikakulam district made a bargain with the Government that if all the 25 members of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee would vote for the presidency of Sri Sanjeevi Reddi, they would be given a college. It is not so, Sir. With all the emphasis I can command, I say that

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such a thing never took place. Election for the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee Presidentship was made in the month of April 1951. And the Budget for 1951-52 which provides for a college for Srikakulam was presented to the Legislature on 26th February 1951 and must have been printed in the early part of 1951 January when the election of the Provincial Congress Committee Presidentship was not even dreamt of. As I said there has been an agitation for some years past for a college in Srikakulam district. Bifurcation was made because administrative convenience required it, and not because some votes were promised for the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee Presidentship. Recently a Government 'Girls' High School also was started. We all hope that a School Final class will also be opened there next year. Neither the opening of a school nor college, nor the bifurcation, nor the inclusion of the Vamsadhara scheme in the 15-year plan was made because we promised to do anything for the Presidentship of the Pradesh Congress Committee. The Ministry has done a lot to the district and I think the names of all the Ministers of the present Cabinet of which the Hon. Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja is the head, deserve to be written in letters of gold in the record of our State. The district can never forget this Cabinet. Neither the Prakasam Ministry nor the Omandur Ministry was able to do all these things. I am glad the present Ministry has been able to do that. In matters of education, they have pursued a liberal policy. They are spending a lot of money for opening basic training centres, adult education centres, etc.

"Sir, I gave notice of an amendment regarding food. We are getting only 6 ounces of rice, but one thing I would request the Government to do. Somehow the people are getting rice from the derationed areas. If no check is imposed on them, they will somehow be able to get food. It is an admitted fact that there is rice available and there is also black-marketing. It is, therefore, better that all the officials are given instructions to see that all the checks are removed. In that way we can ease the food situation.

"Coming to irrigation facilities, I would once more request the Government to do all its mite to see that all irrigation facilities such as the construction of an anicut or causeway as the case may be, may be provided, at Guttavilli and Narayanapuram over the river Nagavalli.

"Thanking once more His Excellency for the valuable Address he has given, I resume my seat."

* SRI G. RAJAMANNAR CHETTY:—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have heard some hon. Friends expressing their dissatisfaction and some appreciation. We have heard them offering their criticisms, both laudatory and depreciatory. But I have to say that I must sympathize with His Excellency because he has to depend upon a set of irresponsible and inefficient Ministers who have lost all contacts with the masses and who are so isolated from the general public whom they represent and must represent, and who to-day require the protection of the police in order to move about. It is

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a great misfortune in this State that the Hon. the Chief Minister chooses to remain profoundly taciturn on the floor of this House and it does not speak well of a State that the Chief Minister must so disregard the Members of this House and be so uncommunicative. His Excellency has to suffer from all these drawbacks. I for one would like to warn him against his own Ministers. The policy of the present Ministry seems to be 'After us deluge'. Otherwise, I could not explain to anybody who asks me what the policy of the Government is. Knowing as we do the past record of the Congress, the objectives of the Congress and the purposes for which the Congress has served the nation and its fight for the freedom of this country, what is the position to-day? They have forgotten the objectives and we are seeing that they are very isolated from the public. Need I say that the recent re-election of Sri Viswanatham is a definite pointer to the present position? Why should the Government announce that the seats already declared vacant need not be filled and no bye-election need take place, whereas in Bengal, on the borders of East Bengal, it is proposed to hold election in no less a constituency than South Calcutta? Why should this Government shirk the responsibility of allowing the people to send their representative at this most critical hour?

"My hon. Friends who have preceded me have dealt with high policies. I am almost at the fag end of this discussion and I propose to deal with certain points which the people would like to represent to the Government through their representatives—how they are victimized, how they are affected, and how they suffer from the day to day administration. The man in the street is confronted with corrupt and inefficient officials, from the Police Department and other Departments, with whom he comes into contact. All these reflect upon the capacity of the Ministry, upon the inefficiency of the Ministry and the ultimate objective of the Ministry. The Ministry, if it chooses to be intelligent, must exercise their capacity to see and hear what is going on. The Ministry has got the C.I.D., who can see and hear for them and communicate to them the real feelings and sufferings of the people. But they do not seem to be clever enough to learn from that source of knowledge.

"There is the food problem. The ordinary man however much he may be a violent supporter of the Congress, however much he might have suffered along with the Congressmen for the freedom of this country, yet when he is deprived of his legitimate right to live, he feels that there is something rotten in the State of Denmark and that he must reshuffle, reorganize and overhaul the administration which he has placed in power. Is it not his legitimate right? Sir, in the matter of distribution of ration cards and in the cancellation of ration cards, the illiterate men who cannot express themselves and who cannot approach the officers are suffering to a large extent. The Councillors of the Corporation of Madras know how many people come to them for recommendation for the inclusion of their names in the list and how many cases there are of cancellation of ration cards simply because the

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workers go to work early morning and the Inspectors do not find them at home. Unless something is done to satisfy the official, he will not get back the cancelled ration card. All these reflect upon the administration. A man judges the capacity and the intentions of the Government by the actions of the officials with whom he comes into contact.

"His Excellency has dealt with so many other things which the Government have done and which they propose to do. But I want to say, that the Government will do well to take into account the representations of the people and the expert opinion on every matter and not depend upon their own knowledge with indifferent complacency.

4-45 p.m. "With regard to yarn, my hon. Friends have already stated the difficulty. I would just give one illustration. The weaver wants 40 counts and 60 counts in order to weave a certain cloth in a certain place. But he gets more 60 counts and less of 40 counts. Then, how will he be able to weave? The Government have no eyes, no ears and no sense, because they depend upon the quantity of yarn but not the counts and because they depend upon calculations and on the quantity, viz., the bundles, and not the counts and the quality. They do not care whether it is 40 counts or 60 counts. The Textile Control Officers say that they will allot so many bundles to a certain person or organization and they will not care whether it is 40 counts or 60 counts. They are acting in that manner. Such irrational allotment is causing great difficulties almost torturing the people. All these must really make the Hon. Ministers who adorn the Treasury Benches to move in the matter and see that everybody does his duty. Then only they can justify their position.

"We find that the evil of blackmarketing and corruption is flourishing on a wide scale. There seem to be no appreciable steps taken by the Government at least to combat this evil even if they cannot destroy it. The Officers from top to bottom are indifferent and I do not want to go into the reasons for their indifference. It may be left to the intelligent Members to infer.

"Coming to Prohibition, some hon. Members have said that illicit distillation is going on. Even in the City of Madras, where I happen to be a member of the Prohibition Advisory Committee, round about my own place I find people drinking freely. When a complaint against such people is taken to the police, the complainants are charged on some pretext. But the habitual drunkards are let loose and are not arrested by the police. Even if they are detected, they are let off. Thus, illicit distillation is being encouraged. I want to emphatically say that the Hon. Ministers should not believe that Prohibition has been a success. I may tell them that illicit distillation is flourishing and it is freely stated that it has come to stay as a remunerative cottage industry."

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

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JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"Sir, am I right in presuming that the discussion on His Excellency's address will go on for the whole of to-morrow?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes, it is so."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I think originally it was agreed that the debate will go on till 1 o'clock to-morrow after which my reply will begin."

MR. SPEAKER:—"That is what the hon. Leader of the Opposition means."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"Sir, it was suggested that it can be decided to-morrow. That is all."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I think it was agreed that the Hon. Minister is to commence his reply by 3-30 or so to-morrow."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"That we shall see at 3 o'clock to-morrow, Sir."

*SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL:—"கனம் அக்ரஹஸ்திபதி அவர்களே, கனம் மேன்மை தங்கிய கவர்னர் அவர்களுடைய பிரசங்கத்தை வரவேற்று இரண்டொரு வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். கனம் மேன்மை தங்கிய கவர்னர் அவர்களுடைய பிரசங்கத்தைப் பற்றி சென்ற இரண்டு நாட்களாக அதை எதிர்த்தும், ஆதரித்தும் இந்த சபையில் விவாதங்கள் நடந்துகொண்டிருக்கின்றன. முக்கியமாக மேன்மை தங்கிய கவர்னர் அவர்களுடைய பிரசங்கத்தில், சென்ற நான்கு வருஷ காலமாக காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கமானது என்னென்ன செய்திருக்கிறது என்னென்னசெய்ய திட்டமிட்டிருக்கிறது, அதை செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது என்ற விவரங்கள் பூராவாக எடுத்துச் சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் அதில் பூராவும் இல்லை என்பதை மறுக்க முடியாது. சென்ற நான்கு வருஷ காலங்களில் காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மென்டால் செய்திருக்கிற காரியங்கள் சிலவற்றை நாம் வரவேற்கத்தான் வேண்டும். இல்லை என்று சொல்ல முடியாது. முக்கியமாக மதுவிலக்கைப்பற்றி சொல்லும்போது இப்போது இது வரவர சரியான வழியில் கையாளப்படவில்லை என்றும் நாட்டில் மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் போட்டும் ஏராளமான பேர்கள் தாராளமாக குடிக்கிறார்கள் என்றும் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. இப்பொழுது எனக்கு முன் பேசிய அங்கத்தினர் கனம் ஜி. இராஜமன்னார் அவர்களும் தன்னுடைய தொகுதியில் அவர்கள் தன் கண்ணால் சரியாக நடைபெறவில்லை என்பதைப் பார்த்ததாகவும் சொல்லுகிறார். ஆனால் என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவைப் பொறுத்தவரைக்கும், அதிலும் எனக்கு தெரிந்தவரைக்கும் அங்கே மது விலக்குச் சட்டம் நல்ல முறையில் தான் நடந்துவருகிறது. எங்களுடைய ஜில்லாவில் திருட்டுச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சி குடிப்பது இல்லை என்பதை நான் நிச்சயமாகச் சொல்லவேண்டும். எந்த சட்டம் போட்டாலும் அந்த சட்டம் தூறுக்கு தூறு சரியானபடி நடக்கும் என்று எதிர்பார்க்க முடியாது. திருட்கூடவும், கொலை செய்யக் கூடாது என்றெல்லாம் சட்டங்கள் இருந்தும் கொலை செய்தால் அதற்கு தகுந்த தண்டனை விதிக்கப்படும் என்றிருந்தும் கொலைகளும் கேள்விகளும் அங்கங்கே சில இடங்களில் நடந்து கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. கனவு செய்தால் அதற்கு—அது பெரிய குற்றம் என்று கருதி—தகுந்த தண்டனை விதிக்கப்படும் என்றிருந்தும் கொள்ளைகள் நடந்துகொண்டு தனித்தனி விதிக்க ஆகையால் இப்பொழுது எல்லோரும் குடித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதற்காக கவர்ன்மென்ட் சட்டம் போட்டது சரியில்லை என்று சொல்வது சரியல்ல என்று சொல்ல முடியுமா? இந்த குடியை ஒழிக்க வேண்டுமென்றால் நாம் சட்டம் போட்டோம். அதுதான் நம்முடைய கொள்கை. மகாத்மாவின் கொள்கையும் அதுதான். நம் காங்கிரஸுடைய கொள்கையும் அதுதான். நம் அரசாங்கத்தினுடைய கொள்கையும் அதுதான். நாம் சட்டம் செய்திருந்தும் இன்னும் குடிக்கிறார்கள் என்றால் நாம் எந்த

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சட்டம் செய்தாலும் அதை பயன்படுத்திக்கொள்ளாமலிருப்பது என்பது சில மனிதருடைய இயல்புதான். அவை மனிதர்களுடைய தன்மையைப் பொறுத்திருக்கிறது. நாம் என்ன சட்டம் போட்டாலும் அதற்கு விரோதமாக குடிக்கிறவர்கள் எப்படியாவது குடிக்கத்தான் செய்வார்கள். திருட்டுத் தனமாக குடிக்கவோ, லேசன்ஸ் வாங்கிக் குடிக்கவோ அல்லது பணத்திமிறினால் குடிக்கவோ மனிதர்கள் முன் வருவார்கள். எந்த அரசாங்கமாக இருந்தாலும், எந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டாக இருந்தாலும், எந்த மந்திரியாக இருந்தாலும் திருட்டுத்தனமாக குடிக்கின்றவர்கள் குடித்துக்கொண்டுதான் இருப்பார்கள். அதனால் இந்த கொள்கை தப்பு என்று யாராலும் சொல்ல முடியாது. ஆகையால் இந்த சட்டத்தை செய்தது தவறாகாது. கூடுமான வரையில் ஜனங்கள் கள்ளத்தனமாகவும், திருட்டுத்தனமாகவும் குடிப்பதற்கு அவர்களுக்கு வசதி இல்லாமல் செய்ய வேண்டியதும், அவ்விதம் செய்பவர்களுக்கு தகுந்த தண்டனைகள் கொடுக்க வேண்டியதும் தான் அரசாங்கத்தினுடைய கடமை.

“இரண்டாவதாக நம் நாட்டில் உணவு பஞ்சம் இப்பொழுது இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது உணவு பஞ்சத்தைப்பற்றியேதான் நாம் பேசிக்கொண்டு வருகிறோம். எங்கே போனாலும் உணவு பஞ்சத்தைப்பற்றிதான் பேசுகிறார்கள். இந்தியா தேசம் பூராவும் இந்த உணவு நெருக்கடியில்தான் இருந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் இந்த விஷயத்தில் நம்முடைய இந்தியா கவர்ன்மென்டும் நம்முடைய இராஜ்ய கவர்ன்மென்டும் சரியான முறையை கையாளுகிறார்களா வென்று பார்த்தால் அதுதான் இல்லை. ஒருவருக்கு ஒருவர் முரண்பாடாக இருக்கிறார். ஒருவருக்கு சரியாகத் தோன்றுவது மற்றவருக்கு சரியாகப்படவில்லை. ஒரு அரசாங்கத்திற்கு சரியாகத் தோன்றுவது மற்றவருக்கு சரியாகப்படவில்லை. எது எப்படியிருந்தாலும் மனிதர்கள் தான் கஷ்டத்திற்கு ஆளாகிறார்கள். அதனால் மனிதர்களுக்கு உணவு கிடைப்பது கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. இதற்கு காரணம் என்ன என்பதை மட்டும் தெரிந்துகொள்ள வேண்டும். எனக்கு தெரிந்த மட்டும் என்னுடைய தொகுதியில் அதற்குக் காரணம் ஒன்றைத்தான் நான் சொல்லுவேன். அதாவது இந்த நாட்டிலும் சரி அல்லது இந்த இந்தியா பூராவிலும் சரி இந்த கண்ட்ரோல் அதாவது கட்டுப்பாடு என்பது இருக்கிறதே அது இருக்கிற வரைக்கும் இந்த நெருக்கடி மாறவே மாறாது. என்பதை நான் நிச்சயமாகச் சொல்லுவேன். இன்று உணவு கட்டுப்பாடு வைத்துக்கொண்டிருப்பது ஒரு மனிதனும் சாகவில்லை என்று பெருமை பேசிக்கொள்வதற்காக இல்லை. எந்தக் காலத்திலும் பஞ்சம் ஏற்படத்தான் ஏற்படும். எந்தக் காலத்திலும் தான் வசதி குறைவு ஏற்படத்தான் ஏற்படும். ஆனால் தனிப்பட்ட மனிதனே அல்லது தனிப்பட்ட வியாபாரியோ தான் அவைகளை சமாளித்துக்கொள்ள முடியும். அவர்கள் தான் உணவு எங்கு இருக்கின்றனவோ அங்கிருந்து வாங்கி இல்லாத இடத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவந்து கொடுப்பார்கள். அதை அரசாங்கம் எடுத்து நடத்துவது என்பது சரியில்லை. அதனால் கோடிக்கணக்கான பணத்தை சிலவிடுவது என்பதும் சரியல்ல. இது இவ்விதம் இருக்கும்பொழுது அதை அரசாங்கம் ஏன் இன்னும் தங்களுடைய கையில் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பது விளங்கவில்லை. ஆனால் எல்லாவிதமான கட்டுப்பாடுகளையும் ரத்து செய்ய வேண்டுமென்றாலும் அது மத்திய அரசாங்கத்தைப் பொறுத்திருக்கிறது. மத்திய அரசாங்கத்தில் அறிவாளிகள் தானிருக்கிறார்கள். அங்கே நேருஜி போன்றவர்கள் இருந்தும் கூட இந்த கட்டுப்பாடு இருக்க வேண்டியதுதான் என்பதை யோசிக்காமலிருப்பது வருந்தத்தக்கது. யுத்த காலத்தில் ஆங்கில அரசாட்சி இருந்த காலத்தில் இந்த கட்டுப்பாடு ஏற்பட்டது. இப்பொழுதும் இருக்க வேண்டுமா என்பதை இன்னும் பரிசீலனை பண்ணாமல் இன்னும் இந்தக் கட்டுப்பாட்டை வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்க வேண்டுமா என்பதை அரசாங்கம் யோசனை செய்யவேண்டும். இந்த ரேஷன் முறை இல்லாமல் போனாலும் வேறு இடங்களிலிருந்து உணவு தானியங்களை வாங்கிக் கொள்வதற்கு ஜனங்களுக்கு வசதியாக இருக்கும். ஆனால் இந்த ரேஷன் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருப்பது பார்த்தால் ரொம்பவும் பரிதாபகரமாக இருக்கிறது. இந்த ஒரு விஷயத்தில் இந்த அரசாங்கத்தினுடைய கொள்கை தப்பிதமாகத்தான் இருக்கிறது என்பதை நான் நிச்சயமாகச் சொல்லுவேன். கிராமந்தரங்களில் ரேஷனை

[23rd August 1951] [Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal]

எடுத்துவிட்டால் ரொம்ப கெடுதல்கள் வந்துவிட்டது என்றும், அநேகம் பேர்களுக்கு அரிசி கிடைக்காமல் போய்விட்டது என்றும், அதனால் அநேகம் பேர்கள் சாகிறார்கள் என்றும், பணக்காரர்கள் கள்ளமார்க்கெட்டில் விற்பனை பணம் சம்பாதித்துவிடுவார்கள் என்றும் சொல்லப்பட்டது. ஆனால் என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவில் கிராமங்களில் ரேஷனை எடுத்ததால் தாராளமாக அரிசி கிடைக்கிறது. இந்த ஜில்லா ஆகஸ்டு மாதங்களில் ரேஷன் இருந்த காலத்தில் கிராமங்களில் இரண்டு மூட்டை நெல் ரூ. 70 என்று விற்பனைக்கு இருந்தது. ஆனால் இப்பொழுது ரேஷன் எடுத்த பிறகு ரூ. 55 அல்லது 60 என்று விற்பனைக்கு இருந்தது. எந்தக் கடைக்குப் போனாலும் அரிசி கிடைக்கிறது. தாராளமாக வாங்கிக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். எந்த விதத்திலும் ஜனங்களுக்கு அரிசி கஷ்டமில்லை. ஜனங்கள் கையிலும் இப்பொழுது துட்டு நடமாடுகிறது. இப்பொழுது கூலியும் இரண்டு மூன்று பங்கு அதிகம் கிடைக்கிறது. கட்டுப்பாடு என்று இருந்தால் அவர்களால் ஒன்றும் வாங்க முடியாமல் போய் விடுகிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது கையிலிருக்கும் பணத்தையாவது கொடுத்து விட்டு அரிசியை வாங்கிக்கொண்டு போகிறார்கள். கட்டுப்பாடு இருந்தால் ஒரு வழியை தவிர வேறுவழியில் அரிசி வாங்குவது என்பது முடியாது. ஆகையினால் இந்தக் கட்டுப்பாடு பூராவையும் எடுக்க வேண்டுமென்பது தான் என்னுடைய பூர்ண அபிப்பிராயம். எந்த நாட்டிலும் பணப்புழக்கம் மாதிரி இருந்தால் அது செல்வமுள்ள நாடாகாது.

“எப்படி நாணயப் பழக்கத்தில் ரிசர்வ் பாங்கியிலோ, இதர பாங்கியிலோ வேண்டிய தங்கம், வெள்ளி இருந்தால் தான் அது ஒரு ஸ்திரமான நாணய செலாவணியுள்ள பாங்கு என்று சொல்லுகிற மாதிரி எந்த அளவுக்குப் பணம் நாட்டில் நடமாடுகிறதோ அதற்குத் தக்கபடி நாட்டில் உற்பத்திப் பொருள்களும், உணவுப் பொருள்களும் இருந்தால் தான் அந்த நாடு செல்வப் பழக்கமுள்ள நாடு, செல்வத்தில் பெருந்த நாடு என்று நாம் அர்த்தம் கொள்ளலாம். ஒரு நாட்டினுடைய செல்வச் செழிப்பை நாம் நிர்ணயிக்கும் போது அந்த நாட்டில் இருக்கின்ற ஏராளமான தொழிற்சாலைகளை கணக்கெடுத்தால் மாதிரிப் போதாது; அந்த நாட்டிலுள்ள உற்பத்திப் பொருள்களின் அளவையும், உணவுப் பொருள்களின் கணக்கையும், அதை வாங்குவதற்கு மக்கள் கையில் இருக்கும் பணக் கொழிப்பையும் ஆராய்ந்து பார்த்தே தான் அந்த நாட்டினுடைய செல்வச் செழிப்பை நிர்ணயிக்கவேண்டும். அந்த தேசத்தில் எவ்வளவு பணம் நடமாடுகிறதோ அதற்குச் சரிசமமாக அந்த நாட்டில் உணவு உற்பத்திப் பொருள் இருக்குமானால் தான் அந்த நாட்டில் செல்வம் இருக்கிறதென்று நாம் சொல்ல முடியும். தானியத்தின் விலை படி ஒரு ரூபாய் என்று நிர்ணயித்தால் அந்த ஒரு ரூபாயை கையில் கொண்டு போய் கொடுத்தால் கஷ்டமின்றி அதே அளவு தானியத்தை வாங்கிப் போக வசதியிருந்தால் தான் அந்த நாணயத்திற்கு மதிப்பு. ஆகையால் நாம் நம் நாட்டினுடைய உற்பத்தியை நாளுக்குநாள் பெருக்குவதற்கு வேண்டிய வழிகளை மேற்கொள்ள வேண்டும். நமது சர்க்கார் இப்போது உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்குவதற்காக அநேக திட்டங்களை (Projects) போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த திட்டங்களையெல்லாம் நாம் எல்லோரும் வாடிக்க வேண்டியது அவசியம்தான். ஆனால் இந்த திட்டங்களை நிறைவேற்றுவதற்காக—செய்து முடிப்பதன் பொருட்டு—நமது அரசாங்கத்தார் புதிதாக வரி விதிக்க யோசிப்பதானது சற்று ஆலோசிக்க வேண்டிய விஷயமாக இருக்கிறது. பெரிய பெரிய பிராஜெக்டுகளை எல்லாம் செய்து முடிக்க வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால் சர்க்காருக்கு அதற்கு வேண்டிய போதிய பணம் வேண்டியது தான். ஆனால் நான் சொல்லுகின்றேன், சென்ற வருஷம் எங்கள் ஜில்லாவில்—பிராஜெக்டுக்காக வேண்டிய பணத்தை எங்கள் ஜில்லா மக்களிடமிருந்தே கடனாக வாங்கியதைப் போல அந்தந்த ஜில்லா வாசிகளிடமே இப்போதும் வாங்கிக் கொள்ளலாமே தவிர, அதை விட்டு விட்டு எல்லோரும் வரி கொடுக்கும்படியாக புதிய வரிக்கொள்கையைப் புகுத்துவது சரியல்ல. ஜனங்களுக்கு புதிய திட்டங்களைப் போட்டுச் கொடுத்து விட்டு, அந்த திட்டத்தினால் அந்த ஜில்லாவாசிகள் உண்மையாக பலன் அடையும் போது அவர்களிடம் அதற்காக (Betterment tax) அபிவிருத்தி தீர்வை வசூலிப்பதைப் பற்றியும் நான் வேண்டாமென்று சொல்லவில்லை. ஏனெனில் உண்மையாக அவர்களுக்கு செளகரியம் செய்து கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்றால் அவர்களும் சர்க்காருடன் ஒத்துழைத்தால்

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தான் அந்த வேலை சீக்கிரமாக, சிறப்பாக நடக்கும். எல்லாம் சர்க்காரே செலவு செய்து நடத்தட்டும் என்றால் அந்த வேலை நடக்காது. அதனால், செய்து கொடுத்த பின் மக்கள் நன்மை அடையும் போது அபிவிருத்தி வரின்ய வசூலிக்கலாம். அதை யாரும் கொடுக்க மறுக்க மாட்டார்கள். ஆனால் இப்போது இருக்கும் வரிப் பளுவையே மக்கள் கொடுக்கமாட்டாது கஷ்டப்பட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கும் போது, ஜீவனம் செய்வதற்கு வழி தெரியாமல் எவ்வளவோ விவசாயக் குடும்பங்கள் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக் கொண்டு இருக்கும் இந்த சமயத்தில் மேலும் அவர்களை கசக்கிப் பிழிவதைப் போல புதிய வரிசைய அவர்கள் தலையில் சுமத்த வேண்டிய அவசியம் என்ன என்று தான் என்னால் புரிந்துகொள்ள முடியவில்லை. இந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டின் பதவிச் காலம் முடியும் தருவாயில் இருக்கிறது. அடுத்த கவர்ன்மெண்டு பதவி ஏற்றுக் கொள்ளும் காலம் நெருங்கிவிட்டது. சமீபத்தில் தேர்தல் வேறு நடக்க இருக்கிறது. இந்த சமயத்தில் வரப்போகும் புதிய கவர்ன்மெண்டே புதிய வரிசையப் போடலோ, அல்லது விடலோ செய்து கொள்ளட்டும் என்று விட்டு விடாமல், இந்த சர்க்காரே புதிய வரிசைய புஞ்சை தானியங்களின் மீதும் போடுவது ரொம்பவும் சரியல்ல. விவசாயிகளின் கஷ்டத்தை உணராமல், விவசாயிகளின் துன்பத்தை உணராமல் அவர்களை இன்னும் கசக்கிப் பிழிவதைப் போலத்தான் இருக்கிறது. (A voice :— 'வியாபாரப் பொருள்களை உற்பத்தி செய்பவர்கள் வரி கொடுப்பதில் என்ன கிராமம் இருக்கிறது.'?) நானும் வியாபாரப் பொருள்களை உற்பத்தி செய்பவர்களின் கஷ்டத்தைத் தான் சொல்லுகிறேன். அவர்கள் ரொம்பவும் சம்பாதித்து விடுவதாக நினைப்பது தவறு. எங்கள் ஊரில் இந்தத் தடவை பருத்தி விதை போட்டார்கள். அந்தப் பருத்திச் செடிகளுக்கு எல்லாம் நோய் வந்து அநேகம் வீணாகிவிட்டது. சில பேர்கள் மிளகு செடி போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த மிளகுச் செடிகளுக்கும் ஏதோ ஒரு நோய் வந்து, அந்த பூச்சிகளைக் கொல்வதற்கு ஏராளமான ரூபாய்கள் செலவு செய்து மருந்துகள் போட்டும் பயிர் சரியாக இல்லை. இதுவரையிலும் அந்த மிளகுச் செடிகளைக் காப்பாற்றவும் சறம்போடவும் சாதாரண பயிற்செலவுக்கு எவ்வளவு ஆகுமோ அதைவிட பலமடங்கு செலவு செய்துவிட்டார்கள். பயன் தான் சரியானப்படி இல்லை. இந்தமாதிரி அந்த விவசாயிகளுக்கு எதிர்பாராமலேயே ஏராளமான செலவுகள் வந்து கொண்டிருக்கின்றனவே தவிர அவர்கள் ஏதோ அதிகமான லாபம் சம்பாதித்துவிடுவதாக தப்பாக எண்ணிக் கொள்ள வேண்டாம். ஆகையால் இவைகளை எல்லாம் உத்தேசித்து இப்போது புதிய தீர்வையைப் போடாமல் நிறுத்திக்கொண்டு வரப் போகிற தேர்தலில் எந்தக் கவர்ன்மெண்டு வருகிறதோ அந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டு வேண்டுமென்றால் வேண்டிய தீர்வை போட்டுக் கொள்ளட்டும் என்று விட்டு விடுவதுதான் மிகவும் புத்திசாலித்தனம் என்று சொல்லிக் கொண்டு என் பேச்சை முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

MR. SPEAKER :—"I now adjourn the House till 11 a.m. to-morrow."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Friday, the 24th August 1951.

23rd August 1951]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 14 asked by Sri S. Nagappa at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 23rd August 1951, page 81 supra.]

I. SCHEME FOR ENQUIRY INTO HELMINTHIASIS OF CATTLE (MADRAS HELMINTHIASIS SCHEME).

Results.

Oesophogostomum radiatum.—This is an important roundworm parasite of cattle causing nodules in the small intestine, and besides so damaging the intestine induces wasting and death of the animal. The life-cycle has been completely worked out in the scheme and published. The adult worms, about an inch in length, reside in the large intestine, and their eggs are passed out with the dung of the animal. On the pasture, these eggs give rise to active larvae which, when swallowed by another grazing animal, get established as adults in that one too.

Control measures, besides treatment, are possible by proper grazing and avoidance of these larvae on the ground. Pertinent data for these have been collected in the Scheme.

2. *Ascaris vitulorum*.—This is the large roundworm, more than 6 inches long, commonly found to parasitize calves, especially buffaloes. The development of this worm outside and inside its host has been followed, and it has been found out that infection is acquired by taking in full-grown eggs of the worm from the ground accidentally, while grazing or licking the soil. The larvae have a complicated route from the mouth to the intestine, and injure the liver and lungs of the calf in that migration.

As in the former, control methods are to be applied only with grazing practices. The survival of eggs on the soil at different times of the year has been specially studied in that regard. One other significant phenomenon recorded in this infection is that a calf may get the infection even while in the uterus of its mother, and may start life with this handicap. So, an important recommendation is that pregnant cows should not be grazed on areas likely to be contaminated with the worm's eggs.

3. *Moniezia*.—As a very common tapeworm of cattle, sheep and goats, this parasite deserved, and actually demanded, the closest attention. The development study took a considerable time, as the infection is not direct as in the above two. An intermediate host (or vector) like the mosquito in malaria, was expected to convey the infection and so various insects were experimentally tried, till a grass mite was proved to be the agent. The eggs of the worm, released on the soil, are eaten by these mites; and after the requisite period, when these mites are swallowed along with grass by the animals, they develop the infection.

The control of the worm will depend on how successfully contamination of soil by eggs of the worm is prevented, destruction or avoidance of the mites is effected.

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4. *Limnaca and Indoplanorbis*.—These two pond-snails are guilty of transmitting a variety of parasitic worms, for instance, liver-fluke and the one responsible for "snoring disease" and so their biology and eradication have been the subjects of investigation. Their feeding and breeding habits are now known and their destruction by mechanical, chemical and biological means has been experimentally studied in the laboratory and the field. Under "biological control", fish, insect-larvae, plant-hormones, and fruits of certain trees have been employed successfully, and this phase of the work is shortly to be extended under village conditions.

5. *Host-specificity Haemonchus and Moniezia*.—A roundworm and a tapeworm common to cattle, sheep and goats, are now under study. It is the purpose to find out if these two worms are transmissible from cattle to sheep and vice versa. These infections can be controlled to a large extent if it is discovered that they are not transmissible and that there are two specific strains—bovine and ovine.

6. *Utility of the work*.—These parasitological studies are in the nature of original research on certain worms known to cause diseases in cattle, and where our knowledge was wanting about their life histories, intensive experiments were conducted to gain that. All life-history studies come under "fundamental Research" and unless the development of a parasite is reliably known, we will be ignorant of the *mode of infection*, the portals of entry and exit, duration of infection, and *when and how disease* is caused, which are of vital importance in preventive medicine.

II. INVESTIGATION INTO THE DISEASES OF SHEEP AND GOATS.

Results achieved.

Anthrax.—This is a deadly disease among sheep and goats and is communicable to human beings also. The course of the disease is acute and mortality is cent per cent. The casual agent is present in the grazing areas and the prevailing practices in the villages are conducive for the perpetual presence of the organism in the soil. It was, therefore, necessary to find out suitable measures for the control and eradication if possible of this disease.

A vaccine against this disease is being tried in what are called Anthrax areas and the duration of immunity conferred by the vaccine is being studied. The observations so far made go to show that the period of immunity will be about three months and longer. The work is in progress and when final conclusions are drawn as to the safe period of immunity conferred by the vaccine, periodical vaccinations will be restored, to in the endemic areas with a view to eradication.

2. *Contagious caprine Pleuropneumonia*.—The disease occurs from time to time both in a sporadic manner, as well as in widespread epidemics. It spreads fast through a flock and causes heavy mortality. Experimental vaccinations with the materials obtained from local outbreaks and a vaccine from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute have to be tried in the field. The work will be carried out as and when opportunities for conducting the experiments occur.

3. *Sheep-Dermatitis*.—Outbreaks of a disease suspected for sheep-pox have on closer observation been found to be not sheep-pox, but may be due to a new virus. Experimental vaccinations against this disease is under progress and attempts to ascertain the true nature of the virus is being pursued.

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4. *Parasitic infestations*.—The sheep are subject to infestation with a large number of worms. They cause malnutrition, produce anaemia and death in bad cases. Suitable chome-therapy have been tried and such of those that were found useful have been recommended for use in general practice wherever necessary.

Apart from the curative treatment of the stock against the worms preventive measures are necessary and a study of the various preventive aspects are being studied, so that a combination of both preventive and curative treatments can be adopted according to the needs of the region.

5. *Babesiosis and Theileriasis*.—These are due to protozoal organisms and are spread through the medium of blood sucking ecto-parasites such as ticks. In a few places where the condition was met with, de-ticking measures such as the use of Gammaxene at stated intervals controlled the incidence of the disease. The use of the drug will be extended wherever it is required.

6. *Enterotoxaemia*.—Outbreaks of a disease among sheep characterized by acute illness and sudden death were met with. The presence of toxin in the intestinal canal has been detected in a case. Work in connection with the isolation of the casual organism and to type it is in progress. Suitable vaccine will be put into use against this disease in due course.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 18 asked by Sri S. Nagappa at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 23rd August 1951, page 90 supra.]

Statement showing the number of livestock research stations and the results of experiments conducted at these stations so far, etc.

(1) Name of farm.	Location.	(3) Results of experiments conducted there.
1. Livestock Research Station, Hosur.	(2) The farm is located in the Mathigiri village of Hosur taluk, Salem district.	(3) <i>Kangayam breed of cattle.</i>—The herd was first started in order to preserve the breed. Later, one line was kept for milch strain and the other for work. Both are doing well but as far as bulls are concerned, we are not able to produce as well as those at Palayakottai though the foundation herd is from there and there is a continuous introduction of bulls from there for our breeding. Milch strain is useful but it is seen that there is gradual change in the conformation to milch strain as loose sheath and soft skin. <i>Cross breeding.</i>—Experiments with Sindhi and Coimbatore herd, with Ayreshire were conducted. The results showed that milk yield can be considerably increased but very large number would be required to evolve a breed. The experiments were discontinued and a few were kept for back crossing with Sindhi herd. The present herd shows promise for further work. <i>Sindhi herd.</i>—This is a very important work in raising a herd and making selective breeding for high milk production. We have about the best herd in India and our milk records of about 11,000 lb. For lactation is about the best for Sindhi in India. Many States and private institutions require our bulls. <i>Angole herd.</i>—This was tried at Hosur. The experiment had to be abandoned as the breed did not like the low temperature of the Mysore Plateau. <i>Haikar herd.</i>—This breed was bred for work type for over fifteen years. Though the herd thrives well, the bulls do not produce the best type of horns required for the breed. This herd is now at the Combined Cattle and Sheep Farm, Kurukuppi. <i>Govt. herd.</i>—This herd was introduced during the year 1949-50 by purchase from the Bhavnagar Dairy and they thrive well and the milk yield is also satisfactory.

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(1) Name of farm.	Location.	(3) Results of experiments conducted there.
2. Livestock Research Station, Lam.	(2) It is located in Lam village, six miles from Guntur, which is the nearest railway station having an average about 350 acres.	(3) <i>Sheep.</i>—Originally Bellary breed was maintained. There was improvement of wool quality through selective breeding. Later experiments with Bikanir rams have been started. The improvement of wool through each top cross is noticeable. Bikanir rams have not done well in the field. A flock of ewes of Bikanir are being tried to see if they will thrive.
3. Dairy cum Bull Farm, Visakhapatnam.	(2) It is situated on the 6th mile of Visakhapatnam-Vizianagaram road and covers an area of 165 acres.	(3) <i>Poultry.</i>—Though Rhode Islands Red, Light Sussex, White Leghorn and Black Minorcas and ducks and turkeys have been bred recently, research was done with Tellicherry breed with dark skin. It is reputed for medicinal purposes. The egg yields were quite encouraging but the works was abandoned due to the prejudice of the then Livestock Development Officer.
4. District Livestock Farm, Malabar.	(2) The farm is situated in Thiruvazhumkunnu village of Malabar district and covers an area of about 380 acres.	(3) <i>Pastures.</i>—Introduction of various perennial types of grasses like Kolukkattai, Elephant, Guinea, Natal, Rhodes and other grasses, legumes, like Lucerne, Berseem and Indigofera in pastures, manuring, management of pastures and hay and silage making have been perfected under India conditions. It is the knowledge acquired here that is being used in the rest of the State.
5. District Livestock, South Kanara.	(2) The farm is situated in Koila village, Puttur division of South Kanara district, covering an area of about 760 acres.	(3) Kolukkattai artificially dried produced high quality herbage about 2 lb. of hay equal to 1 lb. of groundnut cake.
6. Combined Sheep and Cattle Farm, Kurukuppi.	(2) The farm is situated in Kurukuppi village in Bellary district covering an area of 382 acres.	(3) Selective breeding of Ongole breed of cattle and Murrah buffaloes is in progress. The herd has to be encouraged by including fresh female stock to show further improvement.
7. Sheep Farm at Dunsandle, Nilgiris.	(2) The farm is situated in Dunsandle, Ootacamund, covering an area of about 600 acres.	(3) This farm was started only in 1948 and it is too early to report the results of experiments. The farm was started only during April 1950, it is too early to assess the results. The farm was started only in 1950 and it is too early to assess the results. It was started in 1948 and the results of experiments will be known only some time hence. As the farm was started only in 1950, it is too early to assess the result of experiments conducted.

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APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 20 asked by Sri S. Nagappa at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 23rd August 1951, page 93 supra.]

Statement showing the receipts realized and the expenditure incurred in respect each of the Agricultural Research Stations in this State for the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51.

Serial number and name of Research Stations.	Receipts.			Expenditure.			Main crops dealt with.
	1948-49 (2)	1949-50 (3)	1950-51 (4)	1948-49 (5)	1949-50 (6)	1950-51 (7)	
(1)	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1 Paddy Breeding Station, Coimbatore..	9,260	7,309	8,753	70,976	75,044	83,548	Paddy.
2 Pomological Station, Coonoor ..	5,163	4,934	3,036	17,395	17,327	15,179	Fruits and other horticultural plants.
3 Kallar Fruit Gardens ..	5,461	5,661	5,033	21,785	23,252	19,681	Paddy.
4 Bhillar Fruit Gardens ..	3,095	2,834	1,336	5,280	5,627	5,427	
5 Rice Research Station, Buchiredi, paleru.	712	698	2,033	17,258	18,945	18,376	
6 Agricultural Research Station, Pattambi.	28,860	33,340	46,635	76,230	96,310	82,560	Paddy, ragi, horsegram, blackgram, gingelly, tapioca, plantains, redgram, fruit-plants and vegetables.
7 Central Farm, Coimbatore ..	37,574	39,763	36,819	2,07,444	1,75,376	1,41,809	Paddy, cholam; ragi and grasses.
8 Demonstration Farm, Kalabasti ..	1,286	5,803	3,747	5,258	5,406	5,556	Paddy, ragi, cumbu and vegetable crops.
9 Fruit Research Station, Kodur ..	8,571	9,005	15,096	43,187	51,518	65,768	Fruits.
10 Agricultural Research Station, Aduthurai.	19,855	26,322	30,278	49,223	65,490	54,866	Paddy and Indian vegetables.
11 Sugarcane Research Station, Gudiyatham.	5,732	18,933	16,572	29,690	34,518	33,777	Sugarcane.
12 Agricultural Research Station, Kollatturi.	4,550	11,335	8,836	57,879	51,563	44,563	Rainfed karunganni cotton, cholam, cumbu and ragi.
3 Agricultural Research Station, Hagari.	10,011	5,798	10,567	52,139	64,889	51,465	Cotton, cholam, safflower, bengalgram, coriander, horsegram, pillipesara, redgram, cumbu, etc.

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14 Cotton Breeding Station, Coimbatore.	8,041	11,837	2,278	80,938	88,284	74,225	Cotton, cholam, pulses, bengalgram, horsegram, and cowpea.
15 Paddy Breeding Station, Mangalore..	7,170	8,388	7,563	36,665	21,009	89,139	Paddy.
16 Agricultural Research Station, Nanjanad.	36,800	38,465	16,931	84,603	61,831	55,330	Potato.
17 Agricultural Research Station, Pattukottai.	8,661	8,764	11,400	19,029	22,574	17,239	Paddy.
18 Rice Research Station, Tirukkuppam..	6,096	10,514	8,640	49,027	51,399	43,487	Paddy.
19 Agricultural Research Station, Taliparamba.	10,318	10,694	18,712	51,919	45,624	58,283	Paddy, chilli, ginger, vegetables, horsegram, tapioca, sweet potato, colacassia yam and bananas.
20 Government Botanic Gardens, Ootacamund.	8,287	8,285	9,859	70,799	56,770	54,594	Ornamental plants.
21 Agricultural Research Station, Samalket.	22,634	25,319	9,677	64,823	59,086	44,811	Paddy, sugarcane and plantains.
22 Agricultural Research Station, Palur ..	14,356	26,372	15,147	48,704	49,711	42,435	Paddy.
23 Agricultural Research Station, Maruteru.	15,833	15,647	13,130	59,440	61,118	58,191	Paddy.
24 Banana Research Station, Aduthurai ..	Nil.	6,275	4,958	..	40,257	34,141	Banana.
25 Paddy Breeding Station, Ambasamudram.	12,579	97,441	12,986	23,485	23,388	22,356	Paddy.
26 Agricultural Research Station, Nandyal.	4,958	5,841	6,250	38,978	40,488	39,047	Cotton, jowar, korra and other dry crops.
27 Special District Agricultural Officer, Araku.	22,184	17,761	18,514	1,13,189	74,629	1,05,197	Paddy, ragi, miger, cabbage, potato and sweet potato.
28 Sugarcane Research Station, Anakapalle.	43,347	51,782	40,475	1,17,874	1,27,750	1,26,926	Sugarcane.
29 Papatia Farm ..	15,979	15,512	10,227	54,622	58,256	79,167	Sugarcane, vegetables, fruits and other miscellaneous crops.

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Serial number and name of Research Stations.	Receipts.			Expenditure.			Main crops dealt with.
	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	
30 Agricultural Research Station, Lam, Guntur.	3,018	3,066	3,450	36,666	39,433	40,887	Jonna, groundnut, tobacco, chillies and cotton.
31 Agricultural Research Station, Siruguppa.	9,251	17,162	9,103	77,435	65,366	69,665	Irrigation experiment conducted on wet and garden land crops.
32 Agricultural Research Station, Thindivanam.	17,123	20,383	16,059	43,811	48,734	46,505	Groundnut, gingelly and castor.
33 Ambalavayal Farm, Wynaad	10,091	10,219	17,386	76,056	56,678	89,950	Paddy, sugarcane, tapioca, ginger, chilli, cowpea, horsegram, orange, pineapple, pepper and coffee.
34 Agricultural Research Station, Nileshwar.	21,707	22,029	19,391	9,490	10,914	9,967	Coconut.
35 Millets Breeding Station, Coimbatore..	4,224	2,564	5,392	60,950	65,053	61,327	Cholam, cumbu, ragi, tenai, samai, panivaragu and kudivavali.
(a) Millets Breeding Station, Ariyalur.	Nil.	627	528	Nil.	7,118	8,175	Cholam, cumbu, ragi and varagu.
(b) Millets Breeding Station, Tirupathur.	Nil.	238	120	Nil.	12,725	12,197	Cholam, cumbu, samai and varagu.
(c) Millets Breeding Station, Ongole..	Nil.	Nil.	1,337	Nil.	5,683	7,222	Cholam, panivaragu and in size.
(d) Millets Breeding Station, Narasipetnam.	Nil.	Nil.	30	Nil.	9,450	14,310	Ragi, cumbu and cholam.
36 College Orchard, Coimbatore	4,833	2,964	1,233	15,694	15,277	14,307	Bananas, sapotaa, mangoes, citrus, guavas, vegetables and root crops flowering plants.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 1 asked by Sri S. Nagappa at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 23rd August 1951, page 98 supra.]

Statement showing the grants-in-aid paid to Aided Industrial schools during the years 1948-49 to 1950-51.

Name of the institution.	Grants paid during 1948-49.				Grants paid during 1949-50.				Grants paid during 1950-51.			
	Maintenance.	Equipment.	Building.	Capitation and stipendary.	Maintenance.	Equipment.	Building.	Capitation and stipendary.	Maintenance.	Equipment.	Building.	Capitation and stipendary.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1 St. Joseph's Industrial School, Crundala.	1,950	..	..	..	2,200	659 8	..	..	1,000	..	..	..
2 U. L. C. M. Rural Reconstructions, Guntur.	1,000	..	..	..	750	138 0	..	..	1,500	..	..	..
3 Krishnaswam Industrial School, Guntur.	1,280	..	..	..	1,190	..	93	..	1,500	890	..	..
4 St. Michael's Industrial School, Guntur.	1,000	..	..	..	1,000	..	..	..	1,200	469	..	..
5 St. Joseph's Industrial School, Guntur.	1,000	..	..	..	1,500	..	..	..	1,500	80	..	180
6 Sri Sarada Niketan Industrial School, Guntur.	647	..	..	..	1,050	..	..	..	750	..	..	450
7 Premalatha Girls' Industrial School, Guntur.	..	..	..	..	760	..	..	..	800	..	..	..
8 O. E. L. M. Girls' Industrial School, Naidupet.	500	..	..	..	697	..	..	..	800	..	..	..
9 A. A. Mission Industrial School, Palmarer.	2,000	..	..	..	2,000	97 13	..	..	2,000	..	..	..
10 C. N. T. Institute, Vepery, Madras-7 ..	5,000	1,007	16,260	..	5,250	12,583 0	..	..	460	..	3,473	..
11 Anjuman Industrial School, Mount Road, Madras.	2,500	181	..	..	2,500	..	..	..	2,750	..	..	..

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Name of the institution.	Grants paid during 1948-49.				Grants paid during 1949-50.				Grants paid during 1950-51.			
	Maintenance.	Equipment.	Building.	Capitation and Stipendary.	Maintenance.	Equipment.	Building.	Capitation and Stipendary.	Maintenance.	Equipment.	Building.	Capitation and Stipendary.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS. A.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
12 Ramakrishna Mission Technical Institute, Mylapore.	3,900	3,875	1,654	..	1,690	882 8	875	..	3,500	876	..	..
13 Gokulam Cottage Industrial School, Teynampet.	900	448	..	..	750	..	..	..	750	..	..	..
14 Thakkarbapa Vidyalaya, Thyagarayanagar.	1,970	8,433	..	..	1,380	28,081 0 *	..	..	875	488	..	..
15 Hussainy and Yateemkhana Industrial School, Thousand Lights.	1,200	600	..	..	1,500	..	..	..	1,500	500	32,000	..
16 Setan School of Embroidery and Needle Work, Kilpauk	1,500	..	..	360	1,300	..	..	360	1,450	..	..	360
17 The Seva Sadan Industrial School, Chittput.	2,400	..	..	900	2,300	..	..	900	2,300	..	..	240
18 St. Anne's Industrial School, Rayapuram.	1,500	..	..	120	1,500	..	..	150	722	..	..	600
19 St. Joseph's Industrial School, Mylapore.	750	..	..	300	750	..	..	..	750	..	..	..
20 Rani Rajalakshmi Industrial Institute, Mylapore.	..	1,137	..	..	1,380	..	..	..	1,435	..	..	..
21 Madras Hindu Swakasangh Industrial School, Georgetown, Madras.	475	..	..	..	400	..	..	..	700	..	..	..
22 St. Bridget's Industrial School, Nungambakkam.*	1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
23 St. Thomas Convent Industrial School, Mylapore.	1,000	..	..	..	1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
24 St. Anthony's Industrial School, St. Thomas Mount.	1,500	..	..	..	1,500	..	..	..	1,500	..	..	..
25 A. A. Mission Industrial School, Velscheri.	840	93	..	..	903	..	..	..	900	123	..	..
26 Harijan Industrial School, Kancheepuram.	700	..	..	..	885	..	..	..	680	..	..	..
27 Methodist Mission Industrial School, Itkadam.	1,000	..	..	..	600	..	..	..	750	..	..	..

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28	Kumaran Harijan Industrial School, Kancheepuram.*	200 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
29	Anjuman Industrial School, Vellore ..	3,191 0	475	..	..	2,250	325 0	..	2,500	189
30	Anjuman Industrial School, Mel- visharam.	3,100 0	311	..	..	2,250	398 0	..	2,000	198
31	Anjuman Industrial School, Turu- pathur.	1,100 0	189	..	..	1,000	..	..	800	..
32	Don Bosco Industrial School, Vellore ..	2,000 0	408	..	..	2,380	700 0	..	2,250	390
33	St. Joseph's Industrial School, Mel- tindivanam.	1,969 0	..	..	1,650	..	..	1,650	1,500	..
34	Danish Mission Industrial School, Panruti.	..	..	..	1,980	460	..	450	..	..
35	District Board Industrial School, Tanjore.	..	2,949	3,200	..	632 +	..	..	..	..
36	St. Francis Xavier's Industrial School, Tanjore.	2,400 0	..	..	..	1,368	349 12	..	2,000	403
37	St. Mary's Industrial School, Kumbakonam.	1,000 0	1,835	..	..	1,200	..	..	1,400	..
38	Municipal Arts School, Kumbakonam.	300 0	..	..	..	1,850	..	..	2,000	389
39	St. Cicily's Industrial School, Kumbakonam.	1,000 0	..	..	..	1,000	..	..	1,200	..
40	St. Joseph's Industrial School, Tiruchirappalli.	..	5,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	850
41	Karur Industrial School, Karur.	1,200 0	181	..	..	1,500	..	..	1,200	..
42	Holy Cross Convent Industrial School, Tiruchirappalli.	754 0	372	..	..	1,200	446 0	..	1,500	..
43	St. John D'Britto Industrial School, Tiruchirappalli.	1,200 0	..	..	..	1,000	195 0	..	1,500	..
44	Pasumalai Trade School, Pasumalai ..	2,000 0	..	..	..	1,500	..	..	1,000	..
45	The Arts School, Madurai ..	..	..	..	..	750	..	..	800	..
46	C. S. M. Industrial School, Dindigul ..	1,500 0	499	..	..	1,300	..	..	1,500	..
47	St. Joseph's Industrial School, Madurai.	600 0	..	..	..	700	..	..	650	..
48	S.P.G. Art Industrial School, Nazareth.	3,500 0	1,105	..	..	3,500	..	..	3,500	276
49	St. Joseph's Industrial School, Adaikalapuram.	1,000 0	..	..	..	1,100	..	..	269	..
50	Industrial School for the Blind, Palayanankottai.	1,500 0	..	..	..	1,300	..	..	1,750	..
51	St. Ignatius Industrial School, Tuticorin.	700 0	..	..	..	400	..	..	500	..

* Rs. 8,433 from grants-in-aid and Rs. 19,648 from the funds for Village Reconstruction and Harijan Uplift.
† Closed from 1949-50.

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Name of the Institution.	Grants paid during 1948-49			Grants paid during 1949-50			Grants paid during 1950-51		
	Maintenance.	Equipment.	Building.	Maintenance.	Equipment.	Building.	Maintenance.	Equipment.	Building.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
72 R.C. Lacc Industrial School, Vadakan-gulam.	RS. A.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
73 Hindu Girls' Industrial School, Kudan-kulam.	500 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
74 Sacred Heart Convent Industrial School, Anjengo.*	300 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
75 Mangalagiri Rural Industrial School, Mangalagiri.†	750 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
76 St. Theresa's Industrial School, Salem.	1,400 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
77 St. Joseph's Industrial School, ..	524 0	475	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
78 P.S.G. & Sons Industrial School, Peelamedu.	15,956 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
79 London Mission Bajo Weaving School, Erode.	850 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
80 Methodist Mission Industrial School, Dharapuram.	600 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
81 Immaculate Conception Convent Indus-trial School, Coimbatore.†	350 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
82 St. Joseph's Industrial School, Ootaca-mund.	1,000 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
83 St. Vincent's Industrial School, Kozhi-kode.	1,200 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
84 Commonwealth Trust Engineering School, Mangalore.	942 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
85 St. Martha's Industrial School, Beinaury, Mangalore.	..	1,330	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
86 St. Joseph's Industrial School, Bethanny.	205 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
87 Sri Krishnaudyogasala, Rannagar ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

* Transferred to Union of Travancore and Cochin.
† Closed from 1949-50.

NOTE.—Five institutions not received any grant have been deleted from the statement.

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APPENDIX V.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 2 asked by Sri S. Nagappa at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 23rd August 1951, page 98 supra.]

Statement showing the grants drawn by district boards for oil age road works in the districts of Rayalaseema.

Name of the district board.	Grant drawn in		
	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
(a) Village Road Works (outside Post-war Road Development)			
1 Anantapur	4,347	3,260	3,260
2 Bellary	3,260	..	4,347
3 Cuddapah	4,202	217	3,252
4 Chittoor	4,347	8,094	2,492†
5 Kurnool	4,347	3,260	5,058
(b) Post-war Road Development Works *—			
1 Anantapur	93,000	1,39,940	1,29,515
2 Bellary	9,210	48,931	46,240
3 Cuddapah	34,240	1,05,843	1,12,411
4 Chittoor	91,850	3,67,113	1,43,680
5 Kurnool	53,063	1,45,782	2,55,466†
(c) Unemployment Relief Works			
Chittoor	..	1,43,000	3,88,140

Statement showing the grants drawn by the panchayats in the districts of Rayalaseema for the years 1948-49 to 1950-51

Name of district.	Name of panchayat	Amount of grant drawn					
		1948-49.		1949-50.		1950-51.	
		RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
1 Anantapur ..	Kallumari ..	282	15 0	..	..	210	11 0
2 Bellary ..	Desanur ..	..	..	249	2 0	2,403	10 0
	Nithoor ..	..	..	331	11 0	293	14 0
3 Cuddapah ..	Pullampet ..	10	0 0	..	..	..	..
	Nagavaram ..	10	0 0	..	..	..	..
	Patur ..	..	..	1,029	5 0	1,300	15 0
	Nandalur ..	..	..	..	..	712	4 0
	Duvvur ..	..	..	..	..	1,405	15 0
	Moragudy ..	..	..	..	..	797	2 0
4 Chittoor ..	Penumoor ..	2,553	3 0	..	..	..	..
	Poyya ..	10	0 0	..	..	..	..
	Adavikottur ..	..	..	445	11 0	582	0 0
	Kalavagunta ..	..	..	..	..	910	15 0
5 Kurnool ..	Mandsalem ..	10	0 0	..	..	691	3 0
	Tartur ..	10	0 0	..	..	..	..
	Mutchumari ..	15	0 0	..	..	..	..
	Brahmankotur ..	112	0 0	..	..	..	..
	Yerrabalem ..	..	..	13	3 0	..	..
	Kadumur ..	..	..	1,809	2 0	..	..
	Vaddamarru ..	..	..	989	15 0	..	..
	Veldurthy ..	..	..	10	0 0	..	..
	..	..	..	..	..	816	7 0

* Include works on O.D.Rs. and M.D.Rs. under district boards.

† The amount represents the grant sanctioned by Government.

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APPENDIX VI.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 5 asked by Sri S. Nagappa at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 23rd August 1951, page 99 supra.]

Number of hostels in the State (districtwar) for boys and girls that received grants from Government during 1949-50 and 1950-51 from the Harijan Welfare Department.

District. (1)	1949-50.		1950-51.	
	Boys. (2)	Girls. (3)	Boys. (4)	Girls. (5)
1 Anantapur	9	1	12	3
2 North Arcot	7	..	11	..
3 South Arcot	3	..	5	2
4 Bellary	7	1	10	2
5 Chingleput	13	2	15	2
6 Chittoor	5	1	5	1
7 Cuddapah	6	..	10	..
8 Coimbatore	10	2	14	2
9 East Godavari	24	3	27	4
10 West Godavari	27	8	29	13
11 Guntur	42	12	46	15
12 South Kanara	4	..	3	..
13 Krishna	20	8	21	7
14 Kurnool	6	..	10	3
15 Madurai	18	8	20	9
16 Malabar	9	2	10	2
17 Nellore	21	3	27	2
18 Ramanathapuram	8	..	13	..
19 Salem	7	1	8	3
20 Tirunelveli	14	3	13	2
21 Tiruchirappalli	9	1	10	1
22 Tanjore	7	..	11	3
23 Visakhapatnam	3	1	5	1
24 Srikakulam	1	..	1	..
25 The Nilgiris	3	1	3	1
26 Madras City	9	4	8	5

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, the 24th August 1951.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Q. 14—cont.

Enquiry into Helminthiasis of cattle.

MR. SPEAKER:—“Members desirous of putting supplementary questions on question No. 14 which was answered yesterday may put them now.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—“It is said that anthrax is a deadly disease and is communicable to human beings also. May I know whether this disease comes to human beings by eating the meat or the milk of the affected cattle?”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“I cannot give that information. But we are trying to eliminate anthrax in certain areas by the regular use of the vaccine that has been discovered for the purpose.”

Q. 20—cont.

Agricultural Research Stations.

MR. SPEAKER:—“Members desirous of putting supplementary questions on question No. 20 which was answered yesterday may put them now.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—“It is observed that in the case of these research stations, the expenditure is more than the receipts. May I know whether this is due to the construction of any buildings or whether the expenditure has gone up to such an extent for the ordinary working of these research stations?”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“Even in regard to the ordinary working of these research stations, we have to spend more than what we are able to get by sale of foodgrains. The research stations are meant for research work and are not intended to be run on commercial lines for growing and selling foodgrains.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—“May I know whether the results of these research stations in regard to new strains and other things have been communicated to the ryots and if so in what manner?”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“The departmental strains that have been evolved are being multiplied in seed farms and are being distributed among the ryots. Improved paddy

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strains have covered over 50 to 60 per cent of the area in the State. So also, in regard to sugarcane, potatoes, oil seeds, very good work has been done as the new strains have spread over a considerable area in the State."

Assent to Hindu Religious Endowments Bill.

* 1 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state when the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill was sent to the President for assent?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Bill, 1951, was sent on the 5th March 1951 to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, for obtaining the assent of the President."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"May I ask whether the Government have received any communication from the Centre and if so what reply this Government have sent to them?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government have not yet received any communication from the Centre."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government of Madras have taken any steps to remind the Government of India regarding the inadvisability of delaying their assent to an important bill of this nature?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I do not think it is proper for this Government to remind the Government of India in the matter."

SRI B. S. MURTHY:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister knows the reasons for this inordinate delay?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"If I had known the reason, I would have stated it."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"Since His Excellency the Governor has issued an Ordinance for the continuance of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, is there any necessity for this Government to remind the Government of India for their early assent?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is a constitutional procedure and in course of time we have to get the assent of the President."

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID:—"Is there any harm in reminding the Government of India when they delay matters?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"There is no necessity. It is not a question of harm at all."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Have this Government received any communication from the Central Government that any provisions of this Bill are offensive to the provisions of the Constitution?"

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

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SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"In view of the fact that this measure has long been delayed even on the floor of this House for various reasons, and in view of the growing suspicion in the minds of people that the President's assent is being delayed due to the pulling of strings by certain vested interests, and in view also of the fact that views were expressed on the floor of this House stressing the urgency of a measure like this, may I know whether it is not right for this Government to write to the Central Government suggesting that speedy action should be taken in the matter?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I do not think it is advantageous for either the Bill or the Government to do so."

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR:—"Is it the opinion of the Hon. Minister that though there has been delay in receiving the assent from the President, this House is not competent to know the reason and press for its assent?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is asking for the Hon. Minister's opinion."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"In the event of assent not being received from the Central Government, do the Government propose to introduce a fresh Bill?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"That can only be decided on receipt of their decision."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Minister for Public Health who is also in charge of the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill will resign his Ministership as a protest as the President's assent is deferred?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The resignation of Ministership is not an individual's concern. But, if the party decides, I am prepared to do it." (Laughter.)

SRI B. S. MURTHY:—"The Hon. Minister says at one time that the assent is being delayed and at another time he says that it is necessary that the Bill should receive the President's assent and that he does not know the reason for the delay. May I know whether the Government are prohibited from enquiring why such an inordinate delay is taking place?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Nobody can prohibit the Government from doing their duty."

Electricity Extension Scheme for Kadayanallur.

* 2 Q.—SRI D. DORAI RAJ PANDIAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the execution of construction work of electricity from Tenkasi to Kadayanallur is; and

(b) whether it is a fact that any other scheme in Tirunelveli district has been given priority to the Kadayanallur Extension Scheme and if so, the reasons therefor?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“(a) The execution of the Kadayanallur extension is nearing completion and the lines will be charged shortly.

“(b) No other scheme in Tirunelveli district has been given priority over the Kadyanallur Extension Scheme.”

SRI D. DORAIRAJ PANDIAN:—“May I know at what stage the proposal for further extension of electricity to Chokkam-patti, Sundarapandiyapuram, Vellahal, Pavur and Serandai is?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“I would like to have notice.”

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR:—“Should not the Government give priority to such firka development schemes over all other schemes in the district?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“That is so.”

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—“Are the Government aware that in schemes of this type, for instance, in the case of extension of electricity from Vijayavada to Narasaraopet, there is no progress for want of copper wire? If it is a fact, may I know what steps the Government have taken in the matter?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The question relates to Kadayanallur.”

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—“It is a general matter and lack of copper wire is likely to retard the progress of other schemes as well.”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“That is one serious difficulty and that explains the delay in the execution of such schemes.”

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—“Will the Government see that the large sums of money that they are spending on the electricity extension schemes are equitably distributed among all the regional areas in this State?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“There is no reason for any complaint such as is insinuated by the hon. Gentleman.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know when this scheme was originally started and when it is proposed to be completed?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“I would like to have notice to give a history of this scheme.”

Improvements to Banganapalle hospital.

* 3 Q.—SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state with reference to question No. 1046 answered on 3rd April 1951—

(a) whether the Deputy Surgeon-General inspected the Banganapalle hospital in 1950-51;

(b) if so, whether any recommendations have been made for the improvement of this hospital;

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(c) if so, what they are; and

(d) whether any action has been taken thereon?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) Yes, on 25th November 1950.

“(b) & (c) The Deputy Director of Medical Services in his inspection report remarked about the bad condition of the flooring of the operation and delivery rooms and suggested the posting of an Assistant Surgeon with surgical experience to the hospital with a view to develop the hospital into a surgical centre. He also remarked about the absence of separate quarters for the nurses and recommended the provision of fly-proof doors to the kitchen.

“(d) An Assistant Surgeon with surgical experience has already been posted to the hospital and the Executive Engineer has been addressed by the District Medical Officer, Kurnool, to forward the necessary plans and estimates in respect of the provision of fly-proof doors to the kitchen and the construction of nurses' quarters.”

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:—“In view of the fact that this hospital happens to be one of the biggest and excellently equipped hospitals in the district of Kurnool, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to have a tuberculosis clinic attached to this hospital?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“It is not so, Sir.”

Repairs to Pappangal channel in Kadayanallur.

* 4 Q.—SRI D. DORAIRAJ PANDIAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to do maramath work in Pappangal channel in Kadayanallur, Tenkasi taluk, and if so, at what stage the work is?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“Estimates for general repairs and improvements to the channel are under preparation and will be sanctioned in the course of this year and the works carried out in the next dry season.”

Text-Book Committee.

* 5 Q.—SRI B. S. MURTHY (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa): Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) when the Text-Book Committee usually meets every year to approve the text-books for high schools and elementary schools; and

(b) the date of publication of the approved list of books last year?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“(a) The Text-Book Committee usually meets twice a year, i.e., in February and September.

“(b) The approved list of books was published last year as Supplement to Part I-B of the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 23rd May 1950.”

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SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Are the Government aware of the impression widely prevailing in the State that these Text-Book Committees are costing the rate-payer and the parents of the students very much as there have been too many changes frequently for no reason whatsoever?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"These committees do not make any change and they only approve the text-books."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—"May I know what happened to the promise of the Hon. Minister's predecessor, Sri Avinashilingam that the text-books will be printed and sold by the Government themselves?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member's question does not arise out of the main question."

SRI B. S. MURTHY:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the present text-book in Telugu for the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate is not a suitable one as there are so many things in it, which according to certain Pandits, could not be explained in the class rooms where girls are also studying along with boys?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"I am not aware of any such thing, Sir."

11-15 a.m. SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Is it a fact that these text-books change from school to school and from district to district even though they are in one regional unit and if so, does the Hon. the Minister realise that this causes lot of inconvenience not only by way of non-availability of text-books but also by way of increase in cost?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"These are beyond the scope of the main question. I was asked to furnish information about the date of the meeting of the Text-Book Committee. If the hon. Member wants other details, he may put a separate question."

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH:—"Is the Hon. the Minister for Education aware of the fact that most of these text-books run out of stock immediately after the re-opening of schools in the districts and thus great inconvenience and hardship are caused to the boys and their parents?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"No such complaints have so far come to the notice of the Government."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—"Are the Government aware of the fact that proper text-books are not supplied to the schools because of the frequent changes effected therein by the Text-Book Committee? Will the Government, therefore, consider the advisability of themselves getting the text-books printed and supplied to the boys?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"I do not think that such a course is necessary, Sir."

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SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know the names of members of the Telugu section of the Text-Book Committee? May I also know the procedure adopted in making selection of text-books?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The Text-Book Committee consists of forty members and there is no question of any Telugu section being there. I would like to invite the hon. Member's attention to the rules framed for the purpose, copy of which is available in the library."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Number of Chenchu Settlements.

7 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of Chenchu Settlements;
- (b) how many schools are there for the benefit of these Chenchus;
- (c) the total number of Chenchu boys and girls studying in these schools;
- (d) the steps taken to attract these children to schools;
- (e) the arrangements made for their higher education;
- (f) whether any Chenchus have been recruited in the Forest department; and
- (g) if so, the posts held by them?

A.—(a) 41.

(b) 22.

(c) Boys: 328.
Girls: 309.

(d) Free midday meal is provided in all the Chenchu schools. Besides, books, slates and clothing are supplied free. Oil and soapnut powder are issued for oil-baths once in a week.

The pupils in the Residential Boarding Higher Elementary School at Bailuty enjoy boarding, lodging, clothing, books, stationery, etc., but are not supplied with midday meals.

(e) A Boarding Home was opened at Dornal in Kurnool East Division to facilitate the pupils to study in the Higher Elementary School up to eighth standard. A similar Boarding Home was opened at Bailuty and Atmakur. The two Boarding Homes at Atmakur and Dornal had to be closed for want of pupils. The Boarding Home at Atmakur has been handed over to the All-India Adimajati Sevak Sangh for management for a period of one year.

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(f) The number of Chenchus employed in the Forest department and the posts held by them are given below :—

(g) Forester	...	...	...	...	1
Forest guards	...	...	...	...	5
Forest watchers	...	...	...	...	12
Headmen	...	...	...	...	13
Deputy headmen	...	...	...	...	15

Recruitment to Gazetted posts.

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

(a) out of the Gazetted appointments made by the Service Commission since 1948-49, how many were selected from Circars and how many from Rayalaseema; and

(b) how many of them belong to Harijans and Backward Classes?

A.—(a) & (b) As recruitment to Gazetted posts is not made on a district basis, the information called for is not available.

Grant for training gardeners.

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

(a) the number and names of the institutions to which grant-in-aid or contributions have been given by the Government for training gardeners; and

(b) the total amount granted to each institution during the last three financial years; and

(c) the number of gardeners each institution has trained every year during the abovesaid period?

A.—(a) The Agri-Horticultural Society, Madras, is the only institution that has been given a grant for training gardeners.

(b) Rupees 3,600 has been granted to the Agri-Horticultural Society, Madras, this year. No other amount was granted to any institution for this purpose during the last three years.

(c) The grant-in-aid was given to the Agri-Horticultural Society early in May 1951 for training eight private gardeners and four gardeners deputed by local bodies.

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Cost of raw materials purchased by Polytechnics in the State.

10 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the cost of raw materials purchased by each of the Polytechnics during the last three financial years, year-wise; and

(b) the cost of articles manufactured in these Polytechnics?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is contained in the statement^a placed on the table of the House.

Extent of land reclaimed under tractor cultivation.

11 Q.—SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the extent of land that has been reclaimed under tractor cultivation in the State, district-wise in the year 1950-51; and

(b) the extent of reclaimed land on which food crops are grown?

A.—(a) The particulars are furnished in the statement^b appended.

(b) The departmental tractors and bulldozers are supplied at the specific request of the agriculturists for cultivation of food crops or for cultivation of cotton followed by food crops. It is expected that the entire area shown against clause (a) would have been cultivated with food crops as the machines have been supplied on that specific condition.

Exact information regarding the extent of reclaimed land on which food crops are grown is not available, but no ryot would have kept the lands without being sown immediately, as otherwise they would have to be again ploughed and harrowed.

Income-tax collected from the merged State of Pudukkottai.

12 Q.—SRI R. NATESAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether this Government gets from the India Government 50 per cent of the income-tax collected from the merged State of Pudukkottai; and

(b) if the answer to clause (a) is in the affirmative, how much?

A.—(a) As a result of the federal financial integration of the merged States, it has been agreed that the Madras Government should get 50 per cent of the net

^a Printed as Appendix I on page 231 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix II on page 232 infra.

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divisible proceeds of income-tax of each year attributable to the merged areas. This Government therefore expect to get 50 per cent of the income-tax (other than Corporation tax) collected from the assesseees in Pudukkottai State from 1st April 1950.

- (b) Information in regard to the tax collected in 1950-51 has been called for from the Commissioner of Income-tax, Madras, and it will be some time before it is available.

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

II.—DISCUSSION ON HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS—cont.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Hunter will speak."

MR. E. F. G. HUNTER:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to associate myself with the Resolution to thank His Excellency for so kindly coming to this House and for his address.

"After listening to His Excellency's Address, I must confess that in Government's past record and future programme I found little about which to enthuse and much to cause me serious concern. A perusal of the note on the National Five-Year Plan in the Madras State to which His Excellency referred, if anything, added to my concern. The most vital problem of course is the question of food, and although difficulties should have and must have been foreseen, it seems to me that Government have failed to take measures appropriate to meet the situation with which they knew they had to contend. I cannot but feel that Government have failed adequately to press home the position of this State to the Central Government and as was made clear in this House yesterday, another State also seriously affected has been able to secure much more concrete assistance from the Centre than has Madras. I suggest therefore, Sir, that one of the reasons for the very serious plight which this State is in to-day is the Government's failure to press on the Central Government sufficiently strongly. The Five-Year plan is all very well, but what we want to-day is foodgrains and still more foodgrains, and it appears to be obvious that the only solution to the immediate problem is more and more importations. I suggest, Sir, that Government must move heaven and earth to build up adequate stocks in the shortest possible time and if the full degree of help is not forthcoming from the Centre, then independent action must be taken. We must see what we can do in other directions.

"Reverting to the Five-Year Programme, although considerable sums of money are to be earmarked for the various projects, it is by no means clear to me as to how the money required is to be raised. It is observed that a sum of Rs. 5 crores will have to come out of drastic economies in departments such as Civil Supplies, Police, Prohibition and other spheres of general administration. I am all for such economies provided efficiency does not suffer and

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I would be extremely unhappy to see any economies that would reduce in any way the efficiency of our excellent Police organization. Again economies in the Civil Supplies Department must not in any way be permitted to interfere with the distribution of what foodgrains we have and are able to secure. I hold very different views, however, so far as economies with regard to Prohibition are concerned, and here, I am confident that very considerable economies could be effected—the biggest of all would be by giving it up. I need not add to the remarks made yesterday by the Hon. Member sitting alongside me (Mr. P. Natesan) on the question of Prohibition and although his may be a lone voice—his has been a lone voice in the past—I join him in the short time I am here (laughter). I am confident that he is not alone of that opinion. I feel sure that many Members of this House have absolutely no faith in Prohibition and I do earnestly draw the attention of Government to the different picture their Five-Year Plan would present were the pre-Prohibition revenues still available. I would urge Government to hasten but slowly with the various projects they have in mind and would remind them that serious difficulties have to be contended with to-day in securing machinery and equipment from overseas required for such projects. I submit, Sir, that unless there is very careful programming, hold-ups on the part of manufacturers which occur all too frequently to-day may well leave Government with half-completed schemes kept in abeyance awaiting equipment from manufacturers. Half-completed measures show no return. That being so, I would urge Government carefully to formulate an order of priority for the various projects and embark only on the most vital, and proceed with the less important only as circumstances and funds permit.

"Sir, in conclusion, I would emphasise that the crying need of the hour is food. The people of this State want food. They want to see their immediate needs met. They want results and cannot await the completion of five-year plans. Whilst five-year plans proceed, many will starve unless immediate action is taken to put right our food problem. This Government have now been in power for some years and I ask, Sir, what have they to show for their period of stewardship?"

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, His Excellency, in his address, has referred to the existing state of affairs in this State regarding food and other things and also to the plans which the Government have drawn up for the next five years. They have programmed to spend every year a certain amount of money on the various development schemes of the State so that at the end of five years conditions will have greatly improved. Sir, to-day, unfortunately, due to circumstances over which the Government have no control, they have inherited all troubles. Such troubles are an inevitable aftermath of any war. The pledges made by the Congress before they came to power have now added to the confusion. Any party should prepare a programme which it can easily implement when it comes to power. It is expected that any party that comes to power should first find

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its feet, then try to walk and jump and fly. But so far as the Congress party is concerned, it makes very good promises but the moment it enters office, it implements none of the things it has promised. A party responsible to the people should move slowly and carefully, but unfortunately this party has become a victim to its own slogans. The result is that to-day we are not able to resolve the confusion that exists right from the beginning. The duty of the Government should, therefore, be to harness the resources available to-day so that the essentials that we require could be provided amply and easily. The Government have many ambitious schemes to put through. But what we want to-day is food, good food at prices which the people can afford. They want cheap clothes and decent shelter. When I say this, of course, I know that rich people and men belonging to the middle class can afford such things even if their cost goes far high. But they constitute only a small portion of the population. We are now concerned with the vast majority of poor people. They are not in a position to buy enough food because the price has gone up beyond their reach. Added to this, the rice portion of the rations has been reduced. I join with the hon. Members that preceded me in protesting against this cut. It is true that on account of failure of monsoons we have not been able to produce much rice. But this fact must have been brought to the notice of the Centre in time and if that had been done, I have no doubt, our food situation would have been far better than it is to-day.

11-30^{a.m.}

"Sir, the recent reduction in the rice content of the ration and also the increase in the price, these two things are working a great hardship upon the average people of this State. I am afraid not only the poor people, but also the lower middle classes, and even the so-called upper middle class people are feeling the pinch on account of the rise in price of rice. For what a person could get for Rs. 15 previously he has to pay now Rs. 20, with the result that many of the families are going without certain amount of food because they cannot afford to buy rice in the black-market. That is the position in regard to food in this State. I am sure, Sir, if the Minister in charge of Food in the Government of India had any imagination, he would have known that we are as badly off as Bihar or Bombay. But he is following a very shortsighted policy in regard to this State. He has not given the consideration to our State which he should have given but he has gone to the extent of saying that he has given great attention to the needs of our State so far as food is concerned. I feel our Government have been suffering on account of pressure brought upon them and they have not been able to impress upon the Government of India their claims not only in regard to food but also in regard to the question of cloth.

"Sir, the way in which the distribution of cloth has been managed in this State under the pressure of the Government of India is certainly very unsatisfactory. If this Government had a free hand so far as cloth is concerned, I have no doubt whatever in my mind that control could be removed instantly. It is the

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control which is responsible for the high prices that the average man has to pay. Though the price of cloth has been reduced to some extent recently, the average man in the street is not able to purchase cloth at the prevailing prices. People are not in a position to buy them though huge stocks are available in the Mills in Bombay and in our State. Therefore I would request the hon. Minister in charge of the portfolio to press upon the Government of India to release this State from the necessity of having control on cloth."

THE HON SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Why not food also?"

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"As regards food the experiment could be tried if the Government of India would assure us that the ten lakhs of tons would be made available to us in the shape of rice. We can keep whatever we get from the Government of India in reserve and then it will be possible for us to de-control even foodgrains. I feel that such an experiment could easily be made and I am sure that things would be far better than what they are to-day.

"Sir, with regard to housing, that is another thing that the poor man wants immediately. If anybody goes into the streets of Madras, particularly Georgetown, he will see any number of people living in the street pavements, *pinls*, and *koodams* and even in places unfit for habitation."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member's time is up."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I am finishing, Sir. This is the third and a most important need. So far as shelter is concerned, not only in the City, in every big town in the State, people are suffering for want of housing accommodation. The Government have spent some amount of money on building big houses, but I feel the Government could have devoted their attention to a larger extent in building houses for the poor and the labouring classes."

* SRI P. KAKKAN:—"கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே! மேன்மை நம்பிய கவர்னர் அவர்கள் இந்தச் சபையில் செய்த பிரசங்கத்தை வரவேற்று என்னுடைய வந்தனத்தை தெரிவித்துக் கொள்வதுடன், சென்னை அரசாங்கம் பதவி ஏற்றபின் செய்திருக்கக்கூடிய பல காரியங்களையும் நான் பாராட்டுகின்றேன்.

"அதோடு நமது அரசாங்கம் எந்தந்த ஸ்தாபனங்களிடம் நம்பிக்கை வைத்ததோ அந்த ஸ்தாபனங்களெல்லாம், அரசாங்கம் அதனிடம் வைத்திருந்த நம்பிக்கைக்கு பாதகமாகவே எல்லாக் காரியங்களையும் செய்து வருகிறது என்ற விஷயத்தை நான் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகின்றேன். குறிப்பாக சென்னை நகர அபிவிருத்தி போர்டை எடுத்துக் கொண்டால் அது என்னென்ன காரியங்களைச் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்ற உயர்ந்த நோக்கத்தோடு ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டதோ அந்தந்த காரியங்களுக்கு முரணாகவே அது காரியங்களைச் செய்வதற்கு என்று நான் குறிப்பிட விரும்புகின்றேன். நகர அபிவிருத்தி போர்டை ஏற்படுத்தியதன் நோக்கமே வீடு அற்ற ஏழை மக்களுக்கும், சேரியில் வாழும் ஹரிஜன மக்களுக்கும் குறைந்த செலவில் வீடுகளைக் கட்டிக் கொடுத்து அவர்களை நல்ல சுகாதாரமான இடங்களில் குடியேற்றுவது தான். ஏழை ஹரிஜன மக்களுக்கும், பாட்டாளிகளுக்கும் வேண்டிய வீட்டு வசதி செய்து

[Sri P. Kakkan]

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கொடுப்பதற்குப் பதிலாக இன்று அந்த நகர அபிவிருத்தி போர்டு பணக்கார மக்களுக்கே தான், மாடி வீட்டு செல்வந்தர்களுக்கேதான் வீட்டு வசதிகளை இன்று செய்து கொடுத்துக் கொண்டு வருகிறதென்ற விஷயத்தை நான் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுடைய கவனத்திற்குச் கொண்டு வரவிரும்புகின்றேன்.

“சென்னை நகரத்தில் குறிப்பாக அபிவிருத்தி போர்டு நிலங்கள் வாங்கியபோது அவைகள் எல்லாம் பொதுமக்களின் நன்மைக்காகவும் ஏழை எளிய மக்களின் வீட்டுச் செலவுக்காகவும், பாட்டாளி ஹரிஜனமக்களின் மனைக்கட்டுக்களுக்காகவும் தான் வாங்குகிறார்கள் என்று அபிப்பிராயப் பட்டோம். பிற்பாடு அவைகளை விற்பனை செய்தபோது 1 கிரவுண்டு, 1 கிரவுண்டு நிலங்களைத் தவிர, 1½ கிரவுண்டு, 2 கிரவுண்டு நிலங்களின் விலைகளை யெல்லாம் பார்த்தால் அவைகள் எல்லாம் பணக்கார மகனாக தான் வாங்க முடியுமென்பதாயிற்று ஏழை ஹரிஜன மகனாக வாங்க முடியாத நிலை ஏற்பட்டுவிட்டது. எங்கெங்கே நிலங்கள் வாங்கினார்களோ அங்கங்கே கட்டப் பட்ட பெரிய மாடமாளிகைகளையெல்லாம் மாடி வீட்டுக்காரர்களுக்கும், பெரிய பெரிய பணக்கார பிரபுக்களுக்கும், அதிக சம்பளம் வாங்கக் கூடிய அதிகாரிகளுக்குமே ஒதுக்கி விட்டார்கள். உண்மையில் ஒரு ஏழை ஹரிஜன மகனுக்குக் கூட கட்டப்பட்ட வீடுகளில் எதுவும் கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை. குறிப்பாகச் சொல்லுகிறேன், சிந்தாதிரிப் பேட்டையில் காக்கே சேரி என்று ஒன்று இருக்கிறது. ஆங்கிலேயர் ஆட்சி காலத்தில் அந்த இடம் குதிரைகளுக்கு புற்கள் விற்கும் இடமாகவும், குதிரை லாயமாகவும் இருந்தது. சுகாதாரக் குறைவான அந்த இடத்தில் ஹரிஜன மக்கள் புற்களை விற்பனை செய்து கொண்டும், அங்கே வசித்தும் வந்தார்கள். ஆனால் இப்போது ஹரிஜனமக்களின் நன்மைக்காகத் தான் நகர அபிவிருத்தி போர்டார் தலை யிட்டு அந்த நிலத்தை வாங்கி கட்டிடம் கட்டி ஏழை எளிய மக்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப் போகிறார்கள் என்று எண்ணினோம். ஆனால் நடந்தது என்ன வென்றால் அந்த இடத்தில் வசித்து வந்த ஏழை பாட்டாளி ஹரிஜன மக்களை அப்புறப்படுத்தி வீட்டு அந்த இடத்தில் பெரிய பெரிய மாடமாளிகை களைக் கட்டி அதை பணம் படைத்த சீமான்கள் வசமே ஒப்படைத்துவிட்டார்கள். எந்த இடத்தில் ஹரிஜனங்கள் புற்களை விற்பனை கொண்டு வசித்து வந்தார்களோ, அந்த இடத்தை விட்டு அவர்களை அப்புறப்படுத்தினார்களே தவிர அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய குடியிருப்பு வசதி செய்து கொடுக்கப்பட வில்லை. அவர்களுக்குச் செய்வது போலச் சொல்லிக் கொண்டு இந்த நகர அபிவிருத்தி போர்டானது பணக்காரர்களுக்குத்தான் நன்மையை அதிகமாகச் செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது என்பதை நான் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகின்றேன். ஆகையால் என்ன காரியத்தை செய்வதற்காக அவர்களை நியமித்தார்களோ அந்தக்காரியத்தை அந்த போர்டார் செய்யத் தவறிவிட்டார்கள். ஆகையால் அரசாங்கமும், கனம் மந்திரிமார்களும் இதில் நன்றாக கவனம் செலுத்தி உண்மையில் ஏழை குமாஸ்தாக்களும், வாழ்க்கை வசதியற்ற ஹரிஜன மக்களும் நன்மை அடையுமாறு செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஏழை மக்களுக்கு குடியிருக்க உடனே தக்க ஏற்பாடுகளை சர்க்கார் செய்து கொடுக்க வேண்டும். ஆரம்பத்தில் நல்ல காரியத்தை இந்த சென்னை நகர அபிவிருத்தி டிபார்ட்மென்ட் செய்யப் போகிறது என்று எல்லோரும் எண்ணினோம். கனம் மந்திரிமார்களும் அப்படித்தான் சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் நடைமுறையில் அப்படி நடக்கவில்லை. ஏழை பாட்டாளி எந்த ஹரிஜன மகனுக்கும் அதனால் நன்மை ஏற்படவில்லை. நகர அபிவிருத்தி டிபார்ட்மென்ட் போர்டு ஏழை மக்களுக்கு ஏதோ நன்மை செய்து கொண்டு தான் வருகிறது என்று கனம் மந்திரிமார்கள் எண்ணிக் கொண்டிருந்தால் உடனே கவனம் செலுத்தி உண்மையில் ஏழை பாட்டாளி ஹரிஜனமக்கள் ஒவ்வொருவரும் நன்மை அடையும் வகையில் ஏதாவது பரிசாரம் காண வேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“கவர்னர் அவர்கள் பிரசங்கத்தில் ஹரிஜன மக்களுக்கு அரசாங்கம் செய்துள்ள சேவையைப்பற்றி குறிப்பிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். உண்மையிலேயே இந்த அரசாங்கம் ஹரிஜன மக்களுக்காகச் செய்திருக்கும் நல்ல காரியங்களை யாரும் மறக்கமுடியாது. நன்றி மறப்பது நன்றன்று நன்றல்ல.

[24th August 1951]

[Sri P. Kakkan]

அன்றே மறப்பது நன்று” என்றபடி அரசாங்கத்திற்கு மக்கள் நன்றியைச் செலுத்தித்தான் ஆகவேண்டும். கல்வித் துறையிலும் சரி, மற்ற எல்லாத் துறையிலும் சரி, ஹரிஜன மக்களின் நம்பிக்கைக்குப் பாத்திரமாக இருக்கும் இந்த காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கமானது நல்ல காரியங்களைச் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை யாரும் மறக்கமுடியாது.

(At this stage Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

“கனம் சபாநாயகி அவர்களே, ஹரிஜன மாணவர்களைக் கல்லூரிகளில் சேர்ப்பதில் கூட இடையூறுகள் இருப்பதாகவும், அவர்களுக்கு முதல் குருப் இரண்டாவது குருப்பில் இடம் கிடைப்பது அரிதாக இருக்கிறதென்றும் ஸ்ரீ நாகப்பா அவர்கள் சொன்னார். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு முதல் சலுகை காட்டுவார்களென்ற நம்பிக்கையை அரசாங்கம் பிரின்சிபால்களின்மேல் வைத்தது அரசாங்கத்தின் நோக்கத்தைச் சரிவர நிறைவேற்றும் முறையில் ஹரிஜன மாணவர்களைக் கல்லூரிகளில் சேர்க்கும் விஷயத்தில் முதல் சலுகை காட்டுவார்களென்றும், முதல், இரண்டாவது குருப்புகளில் இடம் கிடைக்கும்படிச் செய்வதற்காகவும் பிரின்சிபால்கள் நம்புகிறார்கள். அதன் படியே சில சில பிரின்சிபால்கள் நடந்துவருகிறார்கள். சில பிரின்சிபால்கள் அவ்விதம் நடப்பதில்லை. அதற்காக அரசாங்கத்தைக் குற்றம் சொல்லிப் பிரயோஜனமில்லை. ஹரிஜன மாணவர்களுக்கு முதல் சலுகை காட்ட வேண்டுமென்றுதான் அரசாங்கம் உத்தரவிட்டிருக்கின்றது. ஆனால், சில கல்லூரிகளின் பிரின்சிபால்கள்தான் அதை சரிவர நடத்திவைக்கிறார்கள். அரசாங்கம் இன்னும் ஊக்கம் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு ஹரிஜன மாணவர்களைக் கல்லூரிகளில் சேர்க்கும் விஷயத்தில் பிரின்சிபால்கள் எல்லோரும் ஒத்திழைத்து நடந்துகொள்ளும்படிச் செய்யவேண்டும்.

“அது மட்டுமல்ல. ஹரிஜன மாணவர்களுக்கு ஹாஸ்டல் வசதிசெய்து கொடுப்பதற்காக நாம் பணம் கொடுக்கிறோம். அப்படி அரசாங்கம் பணத்தை அள்ளிக்கொடுத்தும் மாணவர்கள் தங்குவதற்கு இடமில்லாமல் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். ஆதலால், கட்டிடத்திற்காகக் கொடுக்கும் கிரான்டை மொத்தமாகக் கிடைக்கும்படி கனம் கிராம அபிவிருத்தி மந்திரி அவர்கள் செய்தால், ஹாஸ்டல்கள் சீக்கிரமாக கட்டப்பட்டு ஹரிஜன மாணவர்கள் தங்குவதற்கு கஷ்டமில்லாமல் இருக்கும் என்பதை நான் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“சென்னை அரசாங்க உணவுத் திட்டத்தில், கிராமத்திலுள்ள நிலச் சுவாந்தார்கள் எல்லாம், நிலம் படைத்தவர்களெல்லாம், கிராமங்களில் ரேஷனை எடுத்துவிட்டால் அங்கிருக்கும் ஏழைப் பாட்டாளி மக்களுக்கு உணவுத் தானியங்களைக் கொடுப்பார்கள் என்று நினைத்தார்கள். அவ்விதம், கிராம ரேஷனையும் எடுத்தார்கள். கிராம ரேஷன் எடுக்கப்பட்டபின் இந்த நிலச்சுவாந்தார்கள் தங்களுடைய தானியத்தை தன் வீட்டுக்குப் பக்கத்தில் இருக்கும் ஏழை மக்களுக்குக் கொடுக்காமல், அதிக விலைக்கு வெளியில் விற்கின்றார்கள். அதனால், அந்த கிராமத்திலேயே விளையும் தானியம் அங்குள்ள ஏழை மக்களுக்குக் குறைந்த விலையில் கிடைப்பதில்லை. அரசாங்கம் ஏற்படுத்தியிருக்கும் பஞ்ச நிவாரணக் கடைகளின் மூலம்தான் அவர்களுக்கு உணவு தானியம் கொடுக்கப்படுகின்றது.

“உண்மையிலேயே நகரங்களிலுள்ள தொழிலாளர்கள்தான் சர்க்கார் நிர்ணயித்துள்ள 12 அவுன்ஸ் ரேஷனை வாங்குகிறார்கள். ஆனால், இவ்விதம் சாப்பிட்டுக் கொண்டே உணவு கிடைக்கவில்லையென்று இந்த அரசாங்கத்தை குறைசூறி திட்டிகிறார்கள் என்பதை நான் வருத்தத்துடன் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“சமீபத்தில் மில்லில் வேலைசெய்யும் தொழிலாளிகளுக்கு அதிக ரேஷன் கிடைக்கும்படியாக நன்மை செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால், கிராமத்தில் நிலத்தில் வேலை செய்யும் ஏழை பாட்டாளி மக்களுக்கு 6 அவுன்ஸ் உணவு கூட சரியாகக் கிடைப்பதில்லை. தொழிற்சாலைகளில் வேலை செய்தாலும் சரி, கிராமங்களில் நிலத்தில் வேலை செய்தாலும் சரி, இந்த அரசாங்கம் எல்லோரையும் சமமாகப் பாலித்து, எல்லோருக்கும் சமமாக உணவு கிடைக்கும்படிச் செய்யவேண்டும். நகரங்களில் வேலை செய்யும் தொழிலாளிகளுக்கு சர்க்கார் நிர்ணயித்துள்ள முழு ரேஷன் கிடைத்தும்

[Sri P. Kakkan]

[24th August 1951]

கூட அரசாங்கத்தைக் குறைகூறிக்கொண்டிருக்கும் இந்த சமயத்தில், கிராமத்திலுள்ள ஏழைப் பாட்டாளி மக்கள், தங்களுக்கு குறைந்த ரேஷன் கிடைத்தபோதிலும், அரசாங்கத்தின் மீது அதிக விசுவாசம் வைத்து, அவர்களுக்கு அரசாங்கம் நன்மை செய்யுமென்று நம்பி காத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் நான் தெரிவிக்க விரும்புகின்றேன்.

“அபிவிருத்தி திட்டங்களை நிறைவேற்றி வைப்பதற்காக நமது அரசாங்கம் இப்போது புதிதாக சில வரிகளைப் போடுவதாக உத்தேசித்திருப்பதைக் குறிப்பிட்டு இங்கேயுள்ள சில அங்கத்தினர்கள் கடுமையாக எதிர்த்தார்கள். ஆனால், பாட்டாளி ஏழை விவசாயிகள் நிச்சயம் இதை வரவேற்பார்கள் என்று நான் சொல்லுகின்றேன். ஏனென்றால் அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் எப்போது சர்க்கார் புதிய திட்டங்களை யெல்லாம் நிறைவேற்றப் போகிறார்கள் என்று எதிர்பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். உண்மையில் இந்த வரிகளால் மக்களுக்கு கெடுதலைத் தவிர நன்மையில்லை யென்றால், இந்த சர்க்கார் தேர்தல் சமயத்தில் புதிய வரிப் பிரச்சினையை எழுப்புவார்களா? அல்லது எந்த சர்க்காராவது இவ்வாறு துணிந்து தேர்தல் சமயத்தில் புதிய வரியைப் போடுவார்களா? ஒரு சர்க்காரும் போட்டது கிடையாது. நமது சர்க்கார்தான் துணிந்து செய்திருக்கிறது என்றால், அது மக்களின் நன்மையை உத்தேசித்தே, பாட்டாளிகளுக்கு, ஏழை விவசாயிகளுக்கு, உண்மையில் எல்லா விதமான திட்டங்களையும் அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவந்து உதவி செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதால்தான் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்று நான் சொல்லுவேன். இந்த மாதிரி வரி போடுவதை உண்மையில் யார் எதிர்த்துப் பேசுகின்றார்கள் என்றால் இந்தப் பள்ளிங் கமிஷன் சிபார்சுகளில் யாருக்கு அக்கரை இல்லையோ, யார் அதை எதிர்க்கின்றார்களோ அவர்கள் தான், இந்த வரியை எதிர்க்கின்றார்கள். உண்மையிலேயே, ஏழை விவசாயி அதை வரவேற்கின்றான். ஆகையால், சர்க்கார் கால தாமதம் செய்யாமல் ஜனங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய எல்லா நீர்ப்பாசனத் திட்டங்களையும் அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவர முயற்சிக்கவேண்டும். ‘அபிவிருத்தி வரி வருவது’ கொள்ளடும், ஆனால், திட்டங்களை உடனே நிறைவேற்றிக்கொடுங்கள்’, என்றுதான் ஏழை விவசாயிகள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள்.”

“அடுத்தபடியாக, புஞ்செய் நிலங்களுக்கு வரி போடும் விஷயமாகவும் பலர் எதிர்த்துப் பேசினார்கள். ஆனால், நான் சொல்லுகின்றேன். புஞ்செய் நிலத்தைச் சேர்ந்த விவசாயிகளும் கூட எவ்வளவு வேண்டுமானாலும் வரி கொடுக்கத் தயாராக இருக்கிறார்கள். ஏனென்றால், நீர்ப்பாசனத் திட்டங்களை யெல்லாம் அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டு வந்துவிட்டால் தங்களது புஞ்செய் பிரதேச நிலங்களை நஞ்செய் பிரதேசமாக மாற்றி நல்ல உணவு உற்பத்தியைச் செய்ய முடியுமென்றுதான் அவர்கள் நினைக்கிறார்கள். மேலும், பல அங்கத்தினர்கள் அடிக்கடி இந்தச் சபையில், நெல் விளையக் கூடிய நிலங்களிலெல்லாம் புஞ்செய் பயிரை விளைவித்தால் நல்ல லாபம் கிடைக்கிறது என்று எல்லோரும் கரும்பு, புகையிலை போன்றவைகளைப் பயிரிடுகிறார்கள், அதைத் தடுக்கவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால், இப்போது புஞ்செய் பயிர்களுக்கு வரி விதித்தால் விவசாயிகளே மறுபடியும் கரும்பு, புகையிலையைப் பயிரிடுவதை நிறுத்திக்கொள்ளுவார்கள், என்றுதான் நான் சொல்லுகின்றேன்.

11-45 “கடைசியாக, 150 ரூபாய்க்கு மேல் கிஸ்தி செலுத்துவோர்களுக்கு எல்லாம் சர்சார்ஜாக மேலும் கொஞ்சம் வரி போடப்படுமென்று சொல்லப் பட்டிருக்கிறது. நான் சொல்லுவது என்னவென்றால், இன்று 10 ஏக்கர் நிலம் வைத்துள்ள மத்திய தர வகுப்பார்கள்தான் 150 ரூபாய்க்குமேல் கிஸ்தி கொடுக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால், 10 ஏக்கர் நிலம் வைத்துள்ள விவசாயிகளெல்லாம் இன்று காலிசூபம் செய்வதற்கே வழியில்லாமல் திண்டாடுகிறார்கள். ஆகையால், 150 ரூபாய் கிஸ்தி செலுத்தும் எவ்வளவோ விவசாயக் குடும்பங்கள் மேலும் வரி கட்ட முடியாமல் கஷ்டப்பட நேரிடும். ஆகையால், 150 ரூபாய் கிஸ்திக்குமேல் வரி செலுத்துபவர்கள் என்பதை ரூ. 300, ரூ. 400 வரையில் கிஸ்தி செலுத்துபவர்களுக்கு மேலும் கொஞ்சம் வரி போடுவதால் பாதகம் ஏற்படாது, என நான் எண்ணுகின்றேன்.

24th August 1951]

[Sri P. Kakkan]

“அடுத்தபடியாக, விவசாயத் தொழிலாளர்களுக்குக் கூலி நிர்ணயிக்கும் விஷயத்தில் சர்க்கார் உடனடியாக வேலை செய்யவேண்டும். விவசாயத் தொழிலாளிகளைத் தவிர மற்றெல்லா தொழிலாளர்களும் வருமுறை, போனால் வசதிகள் நிரந்தரக் கூலி முதலிய சலுகைகளை அனுபவிக்கிறார்கள். அதைப் போலவே விவசாயத் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் ஒரு நிரந்தர ஏற்பாட்டைச் செய்யவேண்டும். விவசாயத் தொழிலாளி கூலி நாளைச் சட்டத்தை 1953-ம் வருடம் தான் கொண்டுவரமுடியும் என்பதாக வந்த செய்தியை பத்திரிகைகளில் பார்த்தேன். சுபரமணியம் மமட்டியும் தன சபாசகளை சமர்ப்பித்திருக்கிறது. ஆகையால், சர்க்கார் ஜவானும் கால்தாமதம் செய்யாமல் விவசாயி, பாட்டாளி, தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு அனுசூலமாக உடனே கூலி நிர்ணயச் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டுவர வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என் பேச்சை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

SRI PYDAH VENKATANARAYANA:—“Madam, Deputy Speaker, while supporting the motion thanking His Excellency for the Address delivered to both the Houses of the Legislature, I would like to make a few observations in respect of the amendments which I moved yesterday. In regard to the food situation in the State, our representations to the Central Government to enhance the rice quota to 2 million tons were no doubt unsuccessful. But, out of the 2 lakhs of tons of rice promised to this State, we have not received even one-third and the balance has yet to come. I trust the Government have been making effective representations to the Central Government to fulfil their commitments to this State.”

“Recently, about one lakh of acres of paddy land was under water under the Errakaluva bridge in West Godavari district for more than a fortnight, the water being knee-deep in some places and it is understood that the crop in more than 50,000 acres of land has completely decayed and the loss this year in respect of West Godavari alone would be more than 50,000 tons of rice. In general, procurement also in West Godavari and other places was not very successful and in view of the recent floods, I do not think that in these lean months the procurement will reach the target and we will have to suffer a great deal. Madam, the quota of 2 million tons of wheat promised by the United States, I hope, has already commenced moving to India and I wonder whether all that wheat will be consumed in India even though wheat is a staple food grain in Northern India.

“Under the Grow More Food and other schemes in the areas taken over by the Government during the last 2 or 3 years from the zamindars, the Government have not taken up the improvement of tanks. No doubt schemes are being worked out; but in respect of many, not even estimates have been prepared. For instance, there is a channel called *Pallapu Kaluva* near Eluru in West Godavari district. If a regulator is constructed on the Channel near Eluru, thousands of acres can be irrigated and the existing ayacut will be assured of timely water supply. In the same way, if Chollangi work is taken up, about 7,000 acres in the first stage and about 11,000 acres in the second stage can be irrigated. I understand that the Government have provided about Rs. 14 lakhs for this work. If they have not already

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done so, I request them to take up that work immediately so that the food position in East Godavari district at least will be improved to some extent.

"Then, Madam, in respect of the formation of Andhra State, the whole House including you, Madam, knows that Swami Sitaram and some other leaders have been fasting. I hope the Government will advise the Union Government to expedite taking steps for the early formation of the Andhra State. With these few words, I support the motion thanking His Excellency for his Address delivered to both the Houses of the Legislature."

JANAB K. M. SEETHI:—Madam, Deputy Speaker, His Excellency was perfectly justified in giving a very rosy picture of the state of things in this State; but it behoves us, the Members of the Opposition, to tell His Excellency that there is the other side of the picture also and the speeches made by hon. Members, both from the Opposition as also from the Government party, would indicate that there is continued suffering throughout the State and the Government have not successfully tackled the problem of food, clothing and supply of essential commodities which make for the betterment of the lot of the common man. It might be pleaded by way of excuse that in the matter of solving the food problem, this State has not had its independent way, but has to depend upon the Central Government for the solution of the other main problems connected with the food problem. There is a feeling on the part of every Member of this House that the pressure brought to bear upon the Central Government has not been sufficient in respect of essential commodities like food and clothing. The promised quota of food by the Central Government has not been supplied to the State and this failure on the part of the Central Government and the complacent attitude of Sri K. M. Munshi about the food position in our State, are to some extent due to the failure on the part of our Government to make the Central Government realize the gravity of the food situation in our State. I request the Government to exert more pressure on the Central Government in the matter of food.

"Then, Madam, the Hon. Sri Harekrishna Mehtab has more than once assured us that there will be not only sufficient cloth in the market, but there will be a glut in the market within a couple of months. This promise has brought no relief to the common man. In the matter of food and clothing, there seems to be some bungling somewhere and it is not possible for us to locate the place where the bungling has taken place. The Central Government and the State Government have not done their duty by the common man and it is our request that very serious thought and very strenuous efforts have to be made to meet the situation.

"About the administrative efficiency of the State, I would like to make a few observations. It might be due to the poor remuneration which the under-dog in the administration is given now, that there is considerable deterioration in administrative efficiency. With the high cost of living, it has become a hard lot

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for non-gazetted officers to make both ends meet and it is nothing surprising if we find several of them succumbing to the temptation of corruption. There is no enthusiasm on their part to put forth their best for making the administration efficient. Every one knows the lot of these unfortunate non-gazetted officers. For the sin of having struck work, they were sufficiently penalized and now they are in a prayerful mood. I respectfully urge on the Hon. Ministers in charge of the various departments to consider sympathetically their lot. Some way must be found for meeting the demands of these non-gazetted officers so that they could put forth their best and add to the efficiency of the administration. If their administrative machinery is lacking in efficiency, it is the common man that will suffer in the end. It is really happening now. Wherever we go, we hear serious complaints about the inordinate delays in the disposal of work in all public offices. The main cause for this state of things is the inadequate remuneration which the non-gazetted officers are paid now, especially at a time when the cost of living is prohibitively high.

"Then, Madam, in regard to some of the legislative enactments that are being attempted to be placed on the Statute Book, I would like to make one or two observations. The life of the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection Act is now sought to be extended for a period of two years and it is really making the uncertain conditions about the tenancy law continue for two years more. As a matter of fact, as far as my district is concerned, we were expecting that the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Act will be placed soon on the Statute Book. Though this House passed it long ago, it has not yet been placed on the Statute Book and I do not know what the real impediment is that delays the assent of the President for this piece of legislation. The tenants of Malabar are really suffering. They have been clamouring for this for a very long time. I understand that it was sent for the assent of the President about 3 or 4 months ago and yet the assent has not been given. I have seen in the papers that representations were made to the President by the representatives of the Landholders' Association requesting the President to withhold the assent to this enactment. Serious misgivings are caused in the minds of the tenants by such reports. I would request the Government to get the assent of the President as early as possible. Madam, the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill is defective in several respects but it certainly is an improvement upon the present Act and it will give considerable relief to the tenants if it becomes law. So, I would request the Government to do all that is possible to expedite the placing of this enactment on the Statute Book.

12
noon.

"Madam, much has been said against the policy of the Government in the matter of Prohibition. We have been always supporting the Government in this matter. It is not only necessary for the present generation but also for the future generation. The Government are following a very ameliorative and a very helpful

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policy in the matter of prohibition. But the Government must see that the prohibition policy is pursued effectively. There are violations of the prohibition law in the other States bordering ours. Those cases go undetected and unchecked by the prohibition authorities. These violations of the prohibition law are going on in the Mysore State frontier and also on the borders of the United States of Travancore-Cochin. Such cases are also on the increase on the frontiers of the French territory of Mahé. Therefore, there is greater need for vigilance to enforce the prohibition policy of the Government. With these words, I support the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Abdul Majid."

* SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I beg to move—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added namely:—

"but beg to draw pointed attention to the sufferings of the agriculturists, the dead nature of the provisions of the Civil Disabilities Removal Act, and the necessity for giving a new turn to the Grow More Food Campaign."

"I would like to clarify the three points that I have raised in my amendment. The first is the woeful plight of agriculturist. I have always been telling this House that 'the agricultural problem has not been successfully tackled by the Government. By mentioning the word 'agriculturists', I do not mean those landholders that some next to zamindars who own hundreds and thousands of acres of land. The main body of agriculturists in the southern parts of this country consists of landholders owning one to ten acres and they form 60 to 70 per cent of the agriculturists of our State. What has the State done for the betterment of these people? These are the people who contribute mainly to Exchequer. Land revenue comes next perhaps only to Sales Tax and a huge figure of nearly 7 or 8 crores of rupees is being collected from them. Therefore, it is absolutely unfair to tax these people again. On the other hand, a man who makes a turnover of Rs. 20,000 in business or a Government officer who draws a salary of Rs. 3,600 per annum goes scotfree without paying even a penny to the coffers of the State. The poor agriculturist has to pay nearly one-fourth of his income from his land to the Government. In return, what does he get? He gets only a control in the price of his paddy even though the cost of cultivation has gone up by leaps and bounds. In addition to that, you now want to put additional burdens on his head. Under the proposed taxation, an agriculturist, who pays Rs. 150 as assessment for his holdings, will have to pay another tax to the Government. I have absolutely no complaint to make against the Government if they are going to levy Agricultural Income-tax, for that will be governed by the principles of fair taxation and equity. An agriculturist who cultivates two or three acres of land is unable to make both ends meet and maintain his family but he

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is made to pay additional taxation. Whereas persons engaged in other walks of life are not paying anything tangible to the Government, why this man alone should come under the axe?

"Now, I come to the recommendations of the land Revenue Reforms Committee. A man owning three or four acres of land and who cannot cultivate the land himself because it is not economical has to lease it to a tenant. If he leases it to the tenant, he is absolutely at the mercy of his tenant. When the harvest comes, he is given only 55 per cent of the produce. Out of this, he has to pay land revenue, meet the cost of cultivation and other sundry charges. He is made to sell his share of the produce at the controlled price. The result is, he will not get even one per cent of what he had invested in the land. So, he is naturally forced to borrow money from a rich agriculturist who has got money and thus he is at his mercy. Therefore, I say it is not fair that we, representing the people as we do, should sit tight upon these poor agriculturists. This is just like robbing Peter to pay Paul. These people are already contributing to the Exchequer more than their share and they were never a burden on the Exchequer. On the other hand, there are other people who are rich but who do not pay adequately. Why not Government tax those people heavily?

"One word about the middle class people. Their position is miserable. Government servants belong to this group. A Government servant drawing Rs. 75 to Rs. 200 is unable to make both ends meet in these days of abnormal cost of living. Madam, these are the people who are really instrumental in carrying out a major portion of the work of the Government. But they are not paid adequately. They must be paid a decent amount for the work they turn out.

"Madam, a word more about the price of paddy. When the price of the Rajapalayam cotton was selling at a low price as compared with other superior varieties, the Hon. Chief Minister represented the matter to the Government of India and they raised the price of this cotton to the level of other superior varieties immediately. But what about the poor landholders in Tanjore, Tiruchirappalli, Nellore and Guntur. Nobody seems to fight for their getting a higher price for producing the staple food of this State. While the price of paddy is Rs. 13-12-0 a maund in Mysore—not to speak of U.P. and Bengal—it is Rs. 11-2-5 a maund in Madras which is less. I ask why not the price be increased at least to the level obtaining in Mysore and why should Madras agriculturists suffer on account of the disparity in prices? Will the Government take up this matter with the Government of India?

"Let me now come to the next point—the removal of untouchability. It was very pleasing to hear from His Excellency that untouchability has been abolished. I put the question to myself whether it has been so eradicated but I am unable to agree. I do not think that we are justified in saying that untouchability

[Sri L. N. Gopalaswami]

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN:—"Madam, I do not know what has been reported in the Press. But what I said there was that, wherever there were no schools for Harijan students, separate schools were being started. It is the bounden duty of the Government to see that they are educated somehow or other. Certainly, I am not in favour of maintaining separate schools for Harijans."

* SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI:—“ While thanking the Hon. Minister for his elucidation on what he said at North Arcot. I still maintain that the very fact that this Government are obliged to start separate schools for Harijans is proof positive that they are not admitted into common schools. Untouchability has not been abolished root and branch and it is a woeful tale. Madam, two weeks ago I visited some of the villages in the Madurai district along with some of my friends to find out how far untouchability has been abolished. I found that they are in the same condition as they were before. Therefore, I say that every aspect of this question of untouchability should be tackled properly. We must see whether schools, hostels, hotels, wells, tanks and roads have been thrown open to them.”

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has already taken ten minutes. He must finish his speech in one or two minutes."

* **SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI:**—"I will finish in two minutes. Madam, I was surprised to find some Members of this House and particularly some Members belonging to the Harijan community saying that the Harijan workers in that area should move at a slower pace in this matter, as otherwise they will lose the elections. I say these people do not want untouchability to be abolished and they want it to remain for ever. Is it fair and right on their part to take up such an attitude. I ask? You must provide all facilities and see that they do not suffer from any disabilities. But it is no use merely providing educational facilities. By that I do not mean that I am opposed to giving educational facilities to them. But I want that you should see things from the proper angle of vision. Therefore, I request the Government to see that the Civil Disabilities Removal Act is enforced as strictly as possible. Then only we can say that untouchability has been abolished.

" Now, I would like to make a casual reference to the Grow More Food Campaign. If one goes through the food statistics furnished in the book ' Food and Agriculture in the Madras State,'

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one will find that, in the last 30 years, the area under paddy cultivation has not gone up by even one square inch. According to their calculations, they estimate that, if so many tons of ammonium sulphate and groundnut cake are used for cultivation purposes, so many tons of paddy will be produced. Nothing can be farther from the truth. Yesterday, the Food Minister also made a statement that, according to their calculations, South Kanara district produces 16 ounces *per capita*. But, I say, there is no testimony to prove it. These are only statistics based on mere conjectures and they will lead us nowhere if we proceed on those bases. We must devise ways and means by which the Grow More Food Campaign can be properly directed. That alone will serve the true interests of the people."

SRI V. JAGGA RAJU :—“Madam, Deputy Speaker, పి.జి. ఎక్స్‌ప్రెస్ 12-15

గవర్నరుగారు ఇచ్చిన ఉపన్యాసములో ఈ రాష్ట్రములో ఇంతవరకు కల్పించిన ఉప
 యోగములు, ఇకమాండు కల్పించబోయే ఉపయోగములు గురించి చెప్పియున్నారు.
 కాని, మొత్తముమీద రాష్ట్రములో పరిశ్రమలు చాలా అసంతృప్తిగా నున్నవి. మొట్ట
 మొదట విషయము హరిజనలను గురించి మనవి చేయుచున్నాను. ప్రభుత్వంవారు
 హరిజనలకు చౌకగా ఇళ్లు, భూములు మొదలగు సౌకర్యము లిస్తామని మినిస్టరుగారు
 budget లో చెప్పియున్నారు. కాని ఇవివరకు ఈ హరిజనలకుగాని, landless
 labourers కు గాని ఎంతవరకు భూములు ఇచ్చియున్నారో తెలియకుండా ఉన్నది.
 ఈ విషయము దరఖాస్తులు పెట్టుకొంటే, ఆ దరఖాస్తులు ఎక్కడనున్నది, ఏమైనది
 కూడ తెలియజంటేదు. మా జిల్లాలో, ఒక గ్రామములో హరిజనలు ఇళ్లకుగాను
 1 కే సంతకర్తలకు క్రిందట దరఖాస్తు పెట్టుకొని, ఇప్పటివరకుకూడా అది ఏ స్థితిలో
 ఉండునది తెలియకుండా ఉన్నది. తరువాత ఇదే విధంగా అంబాజోటి మరియు క
 గ్రామములో కూడా హరిజనలు పెట్టుకొన్న దరఖాస్తు విషయం విశ్రాంతి, ఎక్కడ
 ఉన్నదో జాడ తెలియలేదు. మహారాష్ట్ర గాంధీగారి శ్రేణిచే హరిజనలందరు కాంగ్రె
 సులో చేరారు. కాంగ్రెసుకు నేవ చేశారు. కాని, ప్రభుత్వం హరిజనలకు సరి
 యైన అదరణ, సహాయము చేయలేదని నా అభిప్రాయము, కనుక ఇప్పటికైనను
 ప్రభుత్వమువారు మేలుకొని వారికి ప్రతి సౌకర్యము కల్పించవలసిన కోరుచున్నాను.
 హరిజనలకు landless labourers కు భూములు, లోకలు ఇస్తామని చెప్పినారే కాని
 అట్లు నిజముగా జరగజట లేదు. ఈ విషయములో ఒక చోట కర్ణాటకు దరఖాస్తు
 పెట్టుకొంటే, వారు దానిని క్రింద అధికారలకు కంటిచూపుని తెలియ జేశారు.
 క్రింద అధికారులు దరఖాస్తుచూడడు insolvent అని వ్రాశారు. Insolvent అంటే
 వీరికి సరియైన డబ్బుగాని ధనముగాని లేదు అని నా అభిప్రాయము. కనుక
 అతనికి యోగ్యత లేదన్నమాట. ఈ సందర్భమున ఒక సామెత చెప్పదలచుకొన్నాను.
 'మా ఆయన ఉంటే మంగళవానితో ఆశ్చర్యంలేదు' 'If my husband is alive,
 there is no necessity for a barber'. కనుక, ఆ విధంగా వారు ధనవంతులే
 అయినే వారికి చేయవలసిందేమి లేదు. నిజంగా వారికి సహాయము చేయవలసంటే,
 వారియే కృషి, దుక్కిలి దూసే వారికి సహాయము చేయవలెను. వారు విలాస యోగ్యత
 లేని దుక్కిలిలో ఉండజేస్తే వారికి సహాయము చేయవలసియిస్తుంది. ఈ హరిజనల
 ఉద్ధారణకోసము ప్రత్యేక శ్రమ పంతులుగారు ఒక కోటి రూపాయలకూడా అర్పిం
 చారు. నిజంగా కాంగ్రెసుకు నేవ చేయవలసంటే హరిజనోద్ధారణకై ఇటువంటి
 త్యాగము అవసరము. అందుచేత, ప్రభుత్వంవారు హరిజనోద్ధారణను ముఖ్యముగా

[Sri V. Jaggaraju] [24th August 1951]

నీరింతా వ్యాపించింది. ఈ పరిదంవల్ల, మురుగు కాల్వలగుండా అనేక గ్రామాలకు వ్యాపించి, వలకొలది ఎకరముల భూములను ముంచివేసింది. కినుక ప్రజలకు ఇటువంటి ప్రమాదావస్థలు రాకుండా కంటలు బాగా వండి ఆహార కొరత తొలగవలెనంటే, ఈ irrigation drainage system ను వెంటనే బాగుచేయవలెనని, మురుగు కాల్వలన్నిటాను చేయవలెనని కినుక ఈ విషయములో ఎక్కువ ప్రశ్న లేకుండా వలెనని ప్రభుత్వమును కోరుతూ ఇంతటితో విరమించుకొంటున్నాను.”

JANAB. JANAB. SCHAMNAD:—“Madam, Deputy Speaker, His Excellency’s Address does not give any hope for improvement of the food situation. It is clear that it will not be possible for the Government to make any other arrangement for easing the food situation. When the Government think that it is not possible for them to make any improvement in the matter of food, why should they not give the people a free hand and allow them to make their own arrangement in the matter of food and do as they like? Why should the Government come in the way of the people making their own arrangement for the betterment of the food position? Now in Kasaragod taluk, a densely populated area, the people used to get rice and paddy from the neighbouring taluks where there is paddy and rice in abundance; but the authorities, i.e., the Collector, will not allow people in Kasaragod taluk to go to other taluks and get paddy and rice unless they get a permit from him. It is all right in the case of big people. What about poor people who want only three or four measures of paddy or rice for the maintenance of their family? They have to go all the way to Mangalore, which is the headquarters, to get the permit. It is not really practicable for the poor to get the permit for a few measures of rice which they require for the maintenance of their children. Only big people are able to make profit. They go to the Collector and get the permit. They purchase rice from the neighbouring taluks at a cheaper price and sell it at black-market rates. The poor, on the other hand, who get the permit from the Collector are not able to get the rice at controlled prices. They get the permit and are obliged to purchase rice at very high prices. This is known to the authorities. The Collector knows this. But he is not able to prevent this. He gives the permit and allows people to purchase paddy and rice at higher prices. So the Collector actually encourages black-marketing. The people talk very badly about this. Why should the Collector act like this? What is the use of giving permits which encourage black-marketing? Suppose the Government allow the people to purchase rice and paddy freely without these permits, there would be plenty of rice available for our district people. There would be no difficulty in the matter.

12-30 P.m. " Of course Government maintain ration shops and retail shops in the district. They sell rice at controlled prices. But even then a large quantity of rice gets hidden. If th's hidden rice is brought to the villages and poor people are allowed to purchase it freely *without* permits and other forms of control, then there would be enough rice for all and people would live happily.

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“What is the case now? The poor man in order to maintain his children, goes to neighbouring places and gets some measures of rice for his family maintenance. Very often he is prosecuted. We hear persons being prosecuted for very trivial rationing offences. The rationing system must go. Then people will live very happily. They will get enough rice and be happy.”

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM ;—“ **Madam Deputy Speaker,** மேன்மை தங்கிய கவர்னர் அவர்களுடைய பிரசங்கத்திற்காக அவர்களுக்கு வந்தனம் செலுத்திப் பேசும்போது நண்பர்கள் பலர் அதைத் தேர்தல்பிரசங்கமென்று தெரிவித்தார்கள். மந்திரிகள் எழுதிவைத்த அறிக்கையைத்தான் கவர்னர் வாசித்திருக்கிறார் என்றெல்லாம் அவர்கள் தெரிவித்தார்கள். அது உண்மை தான். அரசாங்கம் செய்த நன்மைகளையெல்லாம் மக்களுக்குச் சொல்லும்போது அதைத் தேர்தல் பிரசங்கமென்று சிலர் சொல்லு கிறார்கள். ஒன்றும் செய்யாவிட்டால் அவர்கள் ஒன்றுக்கும் கையாலா காதவர்கள் என்று சொல்வது இன்று நாட்டில் வழக்கமாக இருக்கின்றது. இந்த தேசத்திலுள்ள எந்த ராஜ்ய சட்டசபையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டாலும் சென்னை ராஜ்யத்தில் செய்துள்ள பல புரட்சிமாதை சட்டங்களைப்போல் வேறு எந்த ராஜ்யத்திலும் செய்யப்படவில்லை யென்று நான் சொல்லு கின்றேன். இதை யாரும் மறுக்கமுடியாது.

“ஆனால், இன்று கொண்டு வந்திருக்கின்ற வரி விதிப்பு மசோதா வைப்பற்றி நான் ஆதரிக்கின்றேனா இல்லையா என்பது வேறு விஷயம். இன்று இந்த வரியைப் போடக்கூடாதென்று எதிர்ப்பவர்கள் யார் என்பதுதான் இன்றைய பிரச்சனை. நண்பர்கள் கனம் ஸ்ரீ கோபால ரெட்டி அவர்களும், கனம் ஸ்ரீ சீதாராம ரெட்டி அவர்களும் காங்கிரஸ்காரர்கள். கட்சி கட்டுப்பாட்டுக்கு அவர்கள் நிச்சயமாக கட்டுப்பட்டவர்கள். கனம் ஸ்ரீ கோபால ரெட்டி அவர்களும் கனம் ஸ்ரீ சீதாராம ரெட்டி அவர்களும் பெரிய நிலைச்சவான்தார்கள் என்பதையும் நான் சொல்லுகிறேன். ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் சமார் ஆயிரம் ஏக்கராவது மேல் நிலம் இருக்கத்தான் செய்கிறது. ஆயினும், இன்று நாஷனல் பிளானிங் கமிஷன் ரிபோர்ட்டை இந்த தேசத்தின் சுபிட்சத்திற்காக நடை முறையில் கொண்டுவர வேண்டும்; இந்த நாடு சுபிட்சமடையச் செய்வதற்கு பணக்காரர்களுக்கு வரி விதித்து இந்த நல்ல காரியத்தைச் செய்யவேண்டும் என்பதற்காக, அவர்களே பெரிய நிலச்சவான்தார்களாக இருந்த போதிலும், இந்த வரியைக் கொண்டு வருவதற்கு முன்வந்திருக்கிறார்கள்.

“இந்தச் சட்டசபை நான்கு வருஷங்களாக நடந்து வருகின்றது. ஆனால், சட்டசபையின் நடவடிக்கைகளில் சட்டம் செய்யும்போது ஒரு சிலர்—காங்கிரஸ் மெம்பர்களாக இருந்தாலும் சரி, எதிர்க் கட்சி மெம்பர்களாக இருந்தாலும் சரி—பாதிக்கப்பட்டதான் செய்கின்றார்கள். ஜமீன்தாரி ஒழிப்புச் சட்டம் -வந்தபோது ஜமீன்தார்களுக்கு அதிகமான நஷ்ட ஈடு கொடுக்கவேண்டும்; இன்று அரசாங்கம் கொள்ளி அடிக்கின்றது” என்றெல்லாம் சொல்லுகின்றார்கள். ஆனால், விரல்விட்டு எண்ணக்கூடிய சில ஜமீன்தார்களும் இனம்தார்களும் பாதிக்கப்படும்போது பொது மக்களின் பெயரைச் சொல்லித்தான் இந்த சுரண்டல் கொள்கையுள்ள ஒரு கூட்டத் தார் தங்கள் காரியத்தைச் சாதித்துக்கொள்ளுவதற்காக இந்த சட்டசபையில் எதிர்க்கின்றார்கள்.

“நாம் இப்பொழுது நாட்டில் புரட்சிகரமான சட்டங்களை செய்து கொண்டு வரும்போது இந்த சபையில் கூச்சல் எழும்பி இருக்கிறது என்பதை நாம் அறிவோம். ஆனால் மக்கள் அதை புரிந்துகொள்ளாமல் இருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதாக அவர்கள் நினைக்கிறார்கள். மக்கள் நிச்சயமாக புரிந்து கொண்டுநாளிருக்கிறார்கள். சரண்டல்களுக்கு இப்போது இருக்கும் சட்டங்கள் இடம் தருகிறது. அந்த சட்டங்களை எடுத்துவிட்டு மக்களுக்கு பாதுகாப்பு அளிக்க வேண்டுமென்பதற்காக காங்கிரஸ்காரர்கள் எந்த சட்டங்களை நிறைவேற்றுகிறார்களோ அந்த சட்டங்கள் எல்லாம் மக்களை பாதிக்க

[Sri K. T. Kosalram] [24th August 1951]

கிறது என்றும் அதனால் சிலர் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள் என்றும் மக்கள் பெயரைச் சொல்லிக் கொண்டு இங்கே பேசுவருகிறார்கள். மேடைகளிலும் பேசி வருகிறார்கள். இம்மாதிரி பேசுவது என்பது நம் நாட்டில் சர்வ சாதாரணமாகப் போய்விடுகிறது. இந்த நிலைமையில் இப்போது போடப்போகும் வரியைப் பற்றி பேசும்போது, அதை நான் ஆதரிக்கிறேனே இல்லையோ அதைப்பற்றி நான் ஏற்கனவே சொல்லிவிட்டேன். இப்பொழுது **Betterment tax** போடப்போகிறோம் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அதற்கு வேண்டி ஒரு மசோதாவையும் கொண்டு வரப் போகிறோம் என்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இம்மாதிரியான வரியை நாங்கள் ஏற்கனவே போட வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறோம். எந்த வரியினாலும் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு கோடிக்கணக்கான பணம் வரட்டும் என்றும் சொன்னோம். எங்கள் ஜில்லாவில் அதற்கும் வழி காட்டியிருக்கிறோம். இம்மாதிரியான **Betterment tax** போடுங்கள் என்று கூட எழுதிக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறோம். மசோதா இல்லாமலும் சட்டம் இல்லாமலும் இருக்கும்போது பாழாய் கிடந்த, தரிசாக கிடந்த, நிலங்களை நல்ல நிலைக்குக் கொண்டுவருவதற்கு நங்கள் எந்த வரி போட்டாலும் கொடுக்க தயாராயிருக்கிறோம் என்றும், நீங்கள் வேலை செய்தால் போதும் என்றும் மக்கள் முன் வந்து எழுதிக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இதற்காக வரி என்ற பெயரால் சர்க்கார் எதற்கு வேண்டுமானாலும் வரி போடுகிறார்கள் என்றும் காற்றுக்குக்கூட வரி போடுகிறார்கள் என்றும் சொல்லி வருகிறார்கள். இந்நாட்டில் மக்களுக்கு நல்லது செய்ய வேண்டுமென்றால் வரி போட்டுத் தான் ஆகவேண்டும். அதை எதிர்க்க முடியாது. ஆனால் எவ்வளவு போடுவது என்பதைத் தான் பின்னாடி பார்த்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். ஆகவே இந்த **Betterment tax** என்பதை ஒத்துக்கொள்ளத்தான் வேண்டும்.

“அடுத்தப்படியாக கமர்ஷியல் கிராப்சுக்கு (commercial crops) வரி போடுவோம் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். மரண வரி போடுவது என்றும் அதற்கு ஒரு பில்லும் வரப்போவதாகவும் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. இந்த ‘பில்லை யார் எதிர்க்கிறார்கள் என்பதைப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். செட்டிநாடு ராஜா அவர்கள் தான் இதை எதிர்ப்பார்கள். அவர்தான் இதை நிச்சயமாக எதிர்ப்பார். ஏனென்றால் அவரால் இதை எதிர்க்காமல் இருக்க முடியாது. என்னையோ உள்ளவர் செத்துப்போனால் ஒன்று மில்லை. ஆனால் அவர் செத்துப்போனால் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு ஏராளமான பணம் வரும். நிச்சயமாக அரசாங்கத்திற்குக் கொடுத்துத்தான் தீர வேண்டும். அப்படி இருக்கும்போது அவரைப்போல் உள்ளவர் யாராகிலும் தற்கொலை செய்து கொள்வதற்கு நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்வாரா? அதை யாரும் ஒத்துக்கொள்ளமாட்டார்கள். அவ்விதம் இருக்கும்போது சட்ட சபையில் இருந்தாலும் சரி அல்லது வெளியிலிருந்தாலும் சரி மக்களுக்கு பாதுகாப்பு அளிக்கக்கூடிய வகையில் எந்த சட்டத்தைப் போட்டாலும் அதை மக்களின் பெயரால் எதிர்ப்பது என்பது நாட்டில் சர்வ சாதாரணம். அவ்விதம் இருக்கும்போது இந்த மாதிரியான commercial crops க்கு வரி போட வேண்டுமென்று வைத்திருப்பது மக்களுடைய நலனுக்காகத் தான் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. மக்களுடைய நன்மையை உத்தேசித்து தான் அதை விதிக்கப் போகிறார்கள். அந்த நன்மையைப் பற்றி மக்களிடத்தில் சொல்லும்போது அது தேர்தல் பிரசாரம் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அதே நேரத்தில் இன்னுமொரு விஷயத்தைப் பற்றி யோசிக்க வேண்டும். அந்த மாதிரி யார் எதிர்க்கிறார்கள் என்றால் விரல் விட்டு எண்ணக் கூடிய வர்கள் அதாவது நூறுக்கு இரண்டு பேர்கள் தான் இம்மாதிரியான மாதிரியான வரியை மக்களுக்கு விதிக்கிறார்கள் என்று இந்த கிறார்கள். மக்களிடத்தில் சென்று பித்தலாட்ட பிரசாரம் செய்கிறார்கள். தான் இவ்விதம் பிரசாரம் செய்கிறார்கள். என்ன அன்புமிக்க கனம் கோபால் ரெட்டி அவர்கள் மறந்துவிடிக் கூடாது. ஏனென்றால் மக்களில் நூறுக்கு 90 பேர்கள் படிப்பில்லாமல் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களிடத்தில் போய் இவ்விதம் அந்த சுயநல வாதி கள் பிரசாரம் செய்கிறார்கள். அவர்களிடத்தில் சண்டையைக் கிளப்பி விடுகிறார்கள். அப்படிப்பட்ட பணக்காரர்களிடம்தான் பத்திரிகைகள்

[24th August 1951] [Sri K. T. Kosalram]

இருக்கின்றன. ஆனால் நான் பத்திரிக்காசிரியர்களை குறை சொல்லவில்லை; பத்திரிக்கை நிரூபர்களையும் குறை கூறவில்லை. இப்பொழுது அமெரிக்காவில் எவ்விதம் பத்திரிகை. உலகத்தைப் பிடிக்கிறார்கள் என்பதைப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். இந்நாட்டில் பல பத்திரிகைகள் வைத்துக்கொள்ள முடியுமா? ஆனால் அரசியலைக் காப்பாற்ற பத்திரிகைகள் இருந்தால் தான் முடியும். அதற்கு வேண்டிய திறமை எழைக்களுக்குக் கிடையாது. என்ன நடக்கிறது என்பது கிராம வாசிகளுக்குத் தெரிவதில்லை. அவர்களுடைய கஷ்டங்களை எடுத்துச்சொல்வதற்கு இந்நாட்டில் பத்திரிகைகள் கிடையாது. அவர்களுடைய குறைகளை அரசாங்கத்தினிடம் சொல்வதற்கு அவர்களிடம் பத்திரிக்கைகள் இல்லை. ஆனால் அரசாங்கத்தை criticize டண்ணுவதற்கு நாட்டில் பல பத்திரிகைகளும் பல மேடைகளும் இருக்கின்றன. அதனால் நான் என்ன சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றால் இப்பொழுது அரசாங்கம் எந்த வரியைப் போட வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறதோ அதை நல்ல நோக்கத்துடன் தான் போடுகிறார்கள், அதை யாரும் குறை சொல்வதற்கு இல்லை, இப்பொழுது போடக்கூடிய வரிகள் மக்களுக்கு நன்மையைத் தரக்கூடிய வரிகள் தான். தேசத்தில் சுபிட்சத்தைக் கொண்டு வருவதற்குத்தான் வரியைக் கொண்டு வருகிறோம். அதைப் பற்றி தான் நாங்கள் பிரசாரம் செய்து வருகிறோம். அது தான் தேர்தல் பிரசாரம் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அதைப்பற்றி குறை கூறுகிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் வரியினால் யார் பாதிக்கப் படுகிறார்கள் என்பதையும் இப்பொழுது போடப் போகும் வரியால் யார் பாதிக்கப்படப் போகிறார்கள் என்பதையும் பார்க்க வேண்டும். இப்பொழுது மக்களை ஏமாற்றிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்ற அளவிற்கு மேடைகளில் சொல்லி வருகிறார்கள். அரசாங்கத்திற்கு திறமை இருந்தால் போடுங்கள். இப்பொழுது அரசாங்கத்திற்கு திறமை இல்லை என்று சொல்லுகிறேன். என்? சரியானபடி அரசாங்கம் கிராமங்களில் தன்னுடைய பப்ளிசிட்டி டிபார்ட்மெண்டு மூலம் சரிவர வேலை செய்ய விடவில்லை. இதைத் தான் நான் பல முறையில் சொல்லிக்கொண்டு வருகிறேன். பல கிராமங்கள் நான்கு வருஷங்களுக்கு முன் இருந்ததற்கும் இப்பொழுது இருப்பதற்கும் எவ்வளவு பெரிய மாறுதல்கள் அடைந்திருக்கின்றன என்பதைப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். இப்பொழுது மின்சாரம் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள், குளங்களுக்கு மாமத்து செய்திருக்கிறார்கள், ரோடுகள் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள், பெரிய ஸ்கீம்கள் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். பாசன வசதி அளித்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் உண்மையில் அவர்கள் கிராமவாசிகளுக்கு என்னென்ன செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பது அவர்களுக்கு (கிராமவாசிகளுக்குத்) தெரியாது. தண்ணீர் எப்பொழுது வரப்போகிறது என்பதுகூட அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியாது. இவைகளை யெல்லாம் காங்கிரஸ்காரர்கள் எடுத்துச் சொன்னால் அது Election Stunt என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள்.

“இப்பொழுது Land Revenue Reforms Committee ரிப்போர்ட்டு கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் காங்கிரஸ்காரர்களும் அநேகம் சட்டசபை அங்கத்தினர்களும் அதற்கு பல மகாநாடு கூட்டி தலைமை வகித்து இந்த ரிப்போர்ட்டை கொளுத்தவேண்டும் என்றும், இது ஒரு அநியாயமான தீர்ப்பு என்றும், அதனால் அநேகம் பேர்கள் பாதிக்கப் படுகிறார்கள் என்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஆனால் உண்மையில் பார்க்கும் போது எவன் 250 ரூபாய்க்கு மேல் நிலத் தீர்வை செலுத்துகிறானோ அவன் அதிக நிலத்தை வைத்துக்கொள்ளக்கூடாது என்றுதான் அதில் இருக்கிறது. அதனால் யார் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள். தெருவில் போகும் விவசாயி பாதிக்கப்படுகிறானா அல்லது பணக்காரர்கள் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள் என்று பார்க்க வேண்டும். எழை மக்கள் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள் என்று அவர்கள் ரத்தக் கண்ணீர் விடுகிறார்கள். இதைப் பற்றி பத்திரிக்கைகளும் எழுதிக்கொண்டு வருகிறது. எழைகளை நசுக்குகிறார்கள். என்றும் இது Feudal law என்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். பரவாயில்லை. பாமரர்களின் பெயரைச் சொல்லி அவர்களுக்கு விரோதமாக சட்டம் வருகிறது என்று பிரசங்கம் செய்கிறார்கள். அதற்குத்தான் நான் சொல்லுகிறேன். அதைப்பற்றி கவர்னர் அவர்களுடைய பிரசங்கத்தில் இருக்கிறது. அதை இன்னும் விரிவான முறையில் மக்களுக்குச் சொன்னால், நிச்சயமாக காங்கிரஸைத் தவிர வேறு எந்த கட்சியும் நாட்டில் லாயக்

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காக இல்லை என்று மக்கள் முடிவு கட்டி விடுவார்கள். இப்பொழுது **Estate Land Reduction Bill** ஐக் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறோம். இனாம்களை ஒழித்து விட்டோம். ஜமீன்களை எடுத்து விட்டோம். சரியானபடி இன்னும் இனாம்களை ஒழிப்பதற்கு இன்னும் சட்டங்களைக் கொண்டு வராமலிருந்தால் பல கிராமங்களில் நன்மையே ஏற்படாது. 1947-ம் வருஷத்திலிருந்து இந்த ஆக்டை நிறைவேற்ற வேண்டுமென்று சட்டம் செய்தோம். அப்படி இருந்தும் இன்னும் பல கிராமங்களில் குடியானவர்களை விவசாயம் செய்ய விடவில்லை. சுமார் 60 கிராமங்களில் அது இன்னும் அமுலுக்கு வரவில்லை என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள்." (முடிவதற்குள் மணி அடிக்கப்பட்டது)."

SRI M. P. GOVINDA MENON:—"Madam Deputy Speaker, I am associating myself with the amendment moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Karanth, to the main resolution moved on behalf of the party in power. In the Address delivered by His Excellency at the Joint Session, there are some proposals of additional taxation. The hon. Gentleman, Mr. Kosalram, advocated vehemently that the Government is justified in levying additional taxation. I agree, Madam, that under certain circumstances, any Government would be compelled to bring in proposals for additional taxation for creating a Welfare State as contemplated by His Excellency in his speech. But, my complaint is this. Before you think of additional taxation, have you done your duty of carrying out real and effective retrenchment in the top-heavy administration which you have inherited from foreigners? On the other hand, you have made the top-heavy administration which you have inherited rather top-heavier by creating new posts and by increasing the emoluments of existing posts. You have created a large number of unnecessary and ineffective offices thereby increasing the burden on the tax-payer. So, the Advisers to His Excellency ought to have advised him seriously to find out ways and means of effecting real retrenchment in the administration. I have been raising my voice whenever I got an opportunity. But, Madam, this Government never seriously thought of having effective retrenchment in the administration. I have always been harping on the question of the abolition of the Revenue Board, an institution which is not in existence in other States in Northern India. I do not want that such an unnecessary and ineffective department should exist. On the whole, this Government has failed miserably in having any kind of retrenchment in their administration. Of course, hon. Members who are occupying the Treasury Bench ought to set an example to the various heads of departments in effecting economies. The only example set by them is to carry on unnecessary and vexatious tours throughout the State. These tours were undertaken not for the purpose of having a Welfare State but for manoeuvring for party positions of these Ministers. People have generally begun to call this Ministry a tourist Ministry. You may read any newspaper casually and you will see the programmes of half a dozen Ministers going north or south. For what purpose? Not for the purpose of creating a Welfare State. By the bad example set by the Hon. Ministers the departments also did not seriously take into consideration the question of retrenchment.

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"Then, Madam, about Food, His Excellency has remarked that the position is very difficult. I agree that essential articles are not in sufficient supply and are not in sufficient stock and therefore some kind of control is necessary. If there is no control, probably poor consumers will be put to difficulty in getting the essential articles. But, my complaint is not against the control system. Control is necessary but there is no control of the departments which are carrying on the controls. There is de-control regarding the Government servants who are in charge of the control departments. Of course, we may be short of houses; we may be short of wheat and we may be short of clothing but the way in which you distribute these and the administration by which you carry on these controls is an absolute failure. So long as this kind of inefficient and corrupt system of administering control is in existence, personally I would prefer de-control. It is better to leave the people to adjust themselves. That is the cry prevailing in the country. I am afraid a large number of people are crying for de-control. The cry for de-control is not because they do not see the necessity for having control but because of the way in which this Government has been carrying on an inefficient and corrupt administration regarding the control departments."

"Now, Madam, coming to other departments also, my serious charge against this Government is that from top to bottom, there is inefficiency. The hon. Gentleman, Mr. Kosalram, has been saying—that is what I have been able to gather from his Tamil speech—that in no other State such a large number of beneficial legislation has been passed. Madam, in the matter of Prohibition, I am entirely one with this Government. There may be defects in enforcing Prohibition. But, I am entirely in agreement with this policy of Prohibition. They have also passed many other pieces of good legislation. For instance, they have passed the Zamindari Abolition Bill and they have passed legislation to help Harijans. But, how are you putting into effect the legislation which you have passed? If you go to the villages, you will see that everywhere there is slackness and no legislation has been really put into effect by this Government. It is because, from top to bottom, this Government is inefficient. The Members of the Treasury Benches are now trying to seriously think over as to how to put into effect these measures. Are the people in the villages satisfied with the system of administration and with the way in which they are treated? They were saying that there will be Ram Raj and that Ram Raj will be established. What is the kind of Ram Raj that we are having in the villages? It is the Ram Raj of Kosalram and Pattabhiram. What we want is the real Ram Raj. If you go to the villages, you will find that the people are saying that there is no administration. We are driven to the necessity of saying that the British Administration is preferable. I have heard people saying: let the British come back and administer this country. Therefore, my serious charge against the Congress Government is that they have brought the

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name of the Congress to the lowest level. They have made the people feel miserable and yearn for the day when the foreigner will come and rule this country."

SRIMATHI A. V. KUTTIMALU AMMA:—"What about the Praja Party?"

SRI M. P. GOVINDA MENON:—"I hope the lady Member will wait and then she will hear about the Praja Party. While I was in Triplicane, the other day, I heard being repeated slogans against the Congress Party and the Police department. The Inspector-General of Police has given instructions to the Police department to observe this week as 'Courtesy Week.' What is the courtesy, Madam, that the Police people are showing? I will give one instance. I come from a village where there is a Sub-Magistrate's Court, where there is a Deputy Tahsildar and also a Police station. There, one head constable, one fine morning, went out of the station in uniform and began to beat everybody whom he met on the road. There came across him a beggar who did not know even the language of the place. That man also was kicked with the boots by the head constable and marks of injury were found on his body. I made enquiries about this official and learnt that he once assaulted one renowned old Congress worker of North Malabar, and was rewarded perhaps by the then Government. He went off his mind and began to harass anybody and everybody whom he met on the road. He did so because he knows that the persons at the top who are in charge of the administration of the Police and persons who occupy the Treasury Bench are inefficient and are not fit to govern. Then, what is the kind of courtesy that we can get from these people and what is the meaning in celebrating this week known as the 'Courtesy Week?' My complaint is this. This Government has brought the name of the Congress to a low level. Then, what is the alternative before the people? Madam, the alternative is this. We are driving the villagers to the Communist Party. The alternative is that they are driven mercilessly to the arms of the violent party. The only alternative is a violent party and a violent revolution. We have to save this country from a violent revolution. Of course His Excellency promised a fair election. What kind of fair election you can expect from the members occupying the Treasury Bench? In all Congress Committee elections, they have been playing—I do not want to use the word 'Kumbakonam'; if I use it, I shall be misunderstood—but they have been using Government servants and others for their own purpose at the Congress Committee elections. Then, how can you expect fair elections in the country? This organization set up on corruption was out to drive even such an international figure, as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru from the Congress Organization. Such an organization is in charge of the administration here. Of course we want to save this country from flying into the arms of a violent party. For this purpose, a big organization and a big party is formed. By whom? Not by ordinary members but by

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Leaders of the Congress Party themselves, by persons who know the mind of Mahatma Gandhi and who have sacrificed everything for the sake of the country. I assure the hon. Members of this House that this new party will save this country from the violent party to which this Congress Government has driven this country."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The House will now rise and meet again at 3 p.m."

The House then rose for lunch.

(After lunch—3 p.m.)

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are grateful to His Excellency for the Address that he has delivered to us, but are sorry to note that despite the best efforts of his Government at window-dressing, his Address did not contain any message of hope and cheer for the people. It is distressing to find that since we met last, conditions in this State, instead of improving, have considerably deteriorated. You may remember, Sir, that before we adjourned in April last, the Food Minister announced an increase in the rice ration from 7 oz. to 8 oz. People were fed on hopes that this was a prelude to further improvement; but four months after that announcement, to-day the ration has been harshly reduced. It has not even been brought back to the old 7 oz., but has been reduced still further, viz., to 6 oz. Not merely this; the price of rice and also of wheat has been increased. The Government of this State are not at all justified in increasing the price of other rice in order to make up for the higher cost of Siam rice that has been imported. It is not the consumers but the Government that should bear the burden of the increased cost of Siam rice.

"Although the Central Government are also to blame for the unhappy food situation in this State, on account of their lack of sympathy for the sufferings of the people of these parts and also because of their lack of regard for the Ministers here, there can be no gainsaying the fact that the major responsibility for the food situation in this State devolves on the Madras Government itself. After all, we find that the food deficit in this State is not very much. If the Hon. Ministers have read the report issued by their own Economic Adviser, they would have noted that the deficit is only 2.57 lakhs of tons. If the resources of this State are properly husbanded and distributed and not allowed to get into the blackmarket, it would be possible, I believe, to give 10 oz. instead of 6 oz. of rice to the people. While people are starving, particularly in the de-rationed rural areas the blackmarket is over-flooded with rice so much so that the rich are able to purchase any quantity of rice in the blackmarket, without any difficulty. The sufferings of the people are mainly due to the fact that the food policy of the Government has been a record of constant bungling and the food department is hopelessly inefficient despite the mounting expenditure in that department. The

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Government have not at all been keen on increasing food production in this State, despite their grandiose grow-more-food schemes. Had they been keen they would not have allowed large tracts of paddy land in this State to be diverted to the production of cash crops like tobacco and turmeric. It is indeed sad to find that thousands of acres of paddy land are to-day growing, not even sugarcane, or groundnuts but a commercial crop like tobacco. In this House, Government bring forward bills in order to restrict the smoking habit among people, yet that self-same Government have been encouraging people to grow more tobacco the use of which article is not at all essential for the well-being of the nation, but which, on the other hand, is detrimental to one's health.

"As in regard to food, so also with regard to another essential requirement, viz., clothing, the Government of this State have failed miserably. While people in this State and in this country are going about without sufficient clothing, large quantities of Indian fabrics are being exported to foreign lands in order to earn what is called 'foreign exchange.' But I ask, of what avail is this 'foreign exchange' to a nation which is starved out of the elementary needs of life?

"Likewise, in the matter of providing shelter for the people, this Government have an inglorious record, for housing conditions are appalling in this State so far as the poor and particularly the depressed classes are concerned. The United Nations Expert Committee which visited India and these parts recently were perfectly appalled at the condition of the slums and the sufferings of the lower middle classes as well in the matter of housing accommodation. The Government have been merely tinkering with the housing problem, and not trying to solve it, with the result that they have not been able to make any appreciable progress in this regard. The United Nations Expert Committee has made a good suggestion and that is that the Government should control land values, because one of the factors that prevent increased housing accommodation is the highly inflated price of land to-day. This was one of the recommendations of the Provincial Housing Committee also; but the Government have paid no heed to this matter.

"There is yet another essential requirement for the nation in regard to which the Government have deplorably failed. I am referring to elementary education. It is indeed paradoxical that under a National Government, the expansion of elementary education should have remained at a standstill for two long years. Even now I understand the Government are not making any headway in regard to this matter. No doubt they have recently opened a college at Srikakulam, but that does not solve the most essential educational problem facing the nation, namely, to provide free and compulsory elementary education for all school-going children, which is one of the paramount duties of every civilized Government.

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"Sir, I find that in His Excellency's Address mention has been made of the recommendations of the Planning Commission. The Report of this Commission, I feel, is another piece of election propaganda. Since people have been overcome by a sense of complete frustration and since everywhere—be it in clubs, cinema houses, bazaars, buses,—in fact wherever people congregate, the one burning topic of the day, is the utter failure of the present administration, the Government are dangling before the people's eyes plans for a happy future in order to divert their attention, but the nation can no longer be deluded in this manner. People are not interested in grandiose paper schemes relating to a distant future. What they want is food and clothing for themselves and their children here and now. What is the use of the Government embarking on ambitious plans and projects when they have not the necessary resources to implement them, nor the requisite personnel. It would be much better for the Government to concentrate their attention on the existing projects and see that they are executed expeditiously without much waste of the tax-payers' money. Instead of slashing Government expenditure, instead of reducing the size of the bureaucracy, the Government unfortunately are moving in the reverse direction, with the result that eventually this country will be landed into a state of bankruptcy.

"Sir, before I conclude I wish just to make a reference to the taxation proposals of the Government. I was amazed that at the fag-end of the life of this Legislature, the Hon. Finance Minister has dared to come forward with fresh proposals for taxation. These taxation measures are most inopportune and betray a lack of imagination and of foresight on the part of the Hon. Ministers. The crushing burden of taxation has already shattered the economy of the land and it is most inadvisable to have recourse to further taxation. Questions of taxation and questions of planning should be left, I feel, to the future Legislature.

"In conclusion, Sir, I wish to state that the fact that impresses me with compelling force is that during the past four years, those at the helm of affairs have failed to rise to the level of their duties and to the level of their opportunities, but have carried on the administration of this State in a spirit of insouciance and in a careless and haphazard manner, without regard for efficiency and in utter indifference to the sufferings of the people. Indeed we cannot glance down the vista of the future with complacency unless there is a radical change in such an attitude and in the existing methods of administration."

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a pity that the Address of His Excellency which is a statement of bare facts of the administration and of the programme for the next few months of this Legislature should have been characterised by some of my colleagues as an eyewash, as window-dressing, etc. It is a pity that we should also, after five years of work in this Legislature, be so uncharitable to the administration as to characterise the facts stated in the Address as mere eyewash or window-dressing.

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True it is that our Government have made mistakes, perhaps even many mistakes. True it is that they have lacked experience of administration. Nobody claims any previous experience of administration on any large scale for the Cabinet or for any individual Members of the Government. But when all is said and done, it must be admitted that we have done tremendously well. With all the inexperience that we may attribute to the Government and with all the mistakes that they may have committed, looking at our achievements during these five years, we should say that on the whole they have done really very well in almost all the major burdens of the Government, whether, it is Grow More Food Campaign or Public Works—both Irrigation and Power Supply—or whether it is Harijan Uplift or Prohibition, we can certainly claim credit for all these big ventures in our State, as compared to the other States in this country. We have been going forward practically in everything, but we have been accused of not having been able to control our officialdom properly, so much so that corruption has become rampant. Sir, corruption is not the creature of any programme or policy of the Government; but it is, I assert, the necessary consequence, the necessary evil consequence of the lack of a sense of citizenship and a sense of responsibility among large sections of our society. I am sorry to state, Sir, that there has not been enough co-operation with the Gandhian ideals from the public of the State. Take every department of our life; you will find the blackmarket metaphorically applying to every aspect of our life in the country. We have begun to think that Independence has come to us only for the purpose of our misbehaving and not for the purpose of a proper adjustment of our methods of life to new conditions. That is the main reason for our failure to give satisfaction to the public with regard to all our programmes and policies—very noble ones indeed—that we have put forward and tried to carry out.

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Take Prohibition, for instance. Our opponents here have been saying *ad nauseam* that Prohibition has failed. Why has it failed? It is because we ourselves, many of us, people who are even Hindus, people who are Muslims, both of whom are wedded to Prohibition by their very religion, are voicing our protest against this Prohibition policy saying that on account of lack of foresight and wisdom on our part we are losing a big revenue from excise. Is that the way we should tackle big problems? People who are wedded to Prohibition by their very religion are trying simply to shed crocodile tears for the loss of the revenue derived by demoralizing society by selling them drink and making their families unhappy in this country although we have substituted incomes by other noble holy. And other means.

"Next, Sir, so far as Harijan welfare is concerned and also the welfare of the backward classes, we have been doing our best even at the risk of attack from interested quarters, chiefly the Brahman community which is the worst hit. Even so vociferous an element, not the Brahman, but the non-Brahman, has been again and again criticising the Harijan policy of the Government. What is it we have done for the Harijan? We have done

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everything; we are doing everything and we hope to do everything. But, the only defect in the whole thing is, the Government has not been able to exercise an amount of imagination to remove untouchability root and branch by a simple method which should have been taken up long long ago. It has been my appeal to the Government ever since I entered this House to see that this institution of the cheri—called 'malavadu' in Telugu—is once for all abolished; that the segregation of the Harijan should go. That the Government cannot and will not do. And, I am sorry to state that even the Harijans themselves think that because they have got valuable help from the Government in all directions they will segregate themselves for ever, so that they may continue to enjoy all the benefits. It is a very wrong thing to do and Harijans do not know their own future welfare, as long as they persist in sticking to this segregation which they once protested against and which they now want badly. That is a very wrong thing.

"Sir, we have carried out many irrigation works, major and minor, and spent several crores upon several projects and we see that the people feel that we have been doing so much for them. It is not a correct statement to say that people are dissatisfied with the work of the Government in this department. Everything possible that could be done under the existing state of affairs has been done. Even though we lack personnel, even though we lack materials and even though we are confronted with several obstacles, our Government has been pushing on with schemes everywhere. They have not left anything. Wherever it was possible to get supply of water for irrigation purposes, or give supply of electric power, they have been doing what they can. And, our finances have been kept in good order and the ship of State has been safely led through all this time, and we have not suffered. But, what is it we have not done to make our friends say that it is all window-dressing or eyewash and all such things? With these things to our credit we could go out to the country and say that we have done much. There is no difficulty about it. I challenge that all the criticism against the Government which is wide of the mark is not going to convince anybody outside this House with any prejudice or bias against the Congress Government. In spite of the mistakes and failures, they have done very well."

* JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also join in the vote of thanks that has been moved for His Excellency for the Address he has given to both Houses of the Legislature. But, at the same time it is my duty in the interests of the public to further support the motion that has been moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. M. S. Abdul Majid. Sir, there have been speeches in this Assembly by myself and also by my friends in the past dealing with the achievements and policies of the Government. In March last during the Budget session, almost on the last day, I made a speech and therein I referred to the umbrage and the fury into which the Hon. Finance Minister used to get whenever questions regarding the achievements of the Government were referred to. Then Sir, I asked him not to be satisfied with

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telling the House and the public about large amounts of expenditure which he showed as having been incurred by the Government. I wanted him to tell the House and through it the public, what was the particular object in spending a particular amount of money and then showing how far they have realized that object at least and how far they have pursued with vigour the attainment of that object. As a reply to this question and such other enquiries, the Hon. Minister dubbed my speech on that occasion that it was an election speech. Sir, here friends on the other side take exception to our friends on this side calling the Address and the other speeches as election propaganda. Now, Sir, the way for that was led by the Hon. Leader of the House on the previous occasion. I ask, Sir, what is wrong if it is an election speech? Even granting it was an election speech, I wanted a reply to my question. But, he has not given any reply to it even to-day. What I wanted was only this. On this occasion I only wanted to ask him to give a reply to the points raised in the speeches which were delivered in March last, particularly the speech which I delivered on that occasion. I was to have sat down with that, but only by way of reminder I would like to say a few words on this occasion. Sir, whenever we ask for details regarding the achievements of the Government, as I have already mentioned, the Hon. Minister mentions only large amounts of expenditure have been incurred by the Government. But, what is the result? They cannot give a convincing answer and therefore they are discreetly and wisely silent.

"Sir, then on certain occasions they mention Prohibition, abolition of the zamindari and then their power and irrigation projects as the great achievements of the Government, on which they base their claim and boast. Take Prohibition. It is no doubt a good measure and if it had been enforced properly it would have resulted in immense good to the people. But, what is the result now after Prohibition has been in force for the last three or four years in this State? Walls of Prohibition have been demolished in places and there have been no walls of Prohibition at all in certain places. In some places they say that illicit liquor is flowing as if there is no Prohibition Act in this State. That is the way in which the Act is being administered. That is why objection is taken to by the people whenever they speak of the achievements of the Government. To say they have introduced Prohibition is not enough. It is no good by itself. Everybody knows that Prohibition is good. But, what is expected of a Government is its proper enforcement. One Hon. Minister said elsewhere the other day, that he could prove that the way in which it has been enforced by the Government has resulted in better life for the people and more income for the people. He said he could prove it. I very much wish he had given facts and figures to prove that. I am sure he could not prove it. On the other hand, the information is that the income of the common man has gone down in a general way. That is my information, Sir, after four years of the working of this Prohibition. Whatever may be the thing the Government might do, they must show

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the beneficial nature of it by its result, or show why they could not obtain those results, in spite of the bona fide or very able efforts they have put in that direction. That is what is wanted of the Government.

"Then, Sir, the abolition of the zamindari system is another item they make so much of. Again, the way in which they have been going about it is wrong. What is the result after three years of placing this Act on the Statute Book? At that time the Government claimed that they would finish the whole matter of the abolition of the zamindaris in two years' time. Members actively questioned that assertion, but the Government said categorically that they would do it in two years' time; that they would finish the survey and settlement and everything else and make the benefits of the Act flow to the people in two years' time. Now, it is three years, but yet they have not touched even the fringe of the problem. This Act has only created problems in which the Government find themselves enmeshed. Sir, that is their achievement in the field of zamindari abolition. Sir, I could go still further and give you more details, but for want of time I shall deal with the points in a general way. They are in possession of facts and figures and so they know the positive side of the achievements. Yet they have not given them in spite of earnest and active questioning. Now at last they indulge in window-dressing and eyewash. Window-dressing will surely attract customers but it will satisfy us only if the Government could give us facts and figures.

"Then, irrigation and power projects are good so far as they go. We have to admit that much. There again, what is the result that has flown from these projects and from the schemes? Of course, they have given employment to a number of people and that is the only benefit that has resulted from these schemes and projects. But, is that all that is expected of these schemes and projects? Irrigation schemes are mainly intended for providing sufficient food for the people. But, what is the position of food in the country to-day?

"The achievements of the Government can be measured by three tests and they are, food, clothing and shelter. What is the position in regard to food to-day? The position has deteriorated not only in the matter of food, but also in regard to the other two items. There has been practically no change since we addressed this House in March last; on the other hand there is a change for the worse. The State has progressively marched down the road of deterioration during these five months after the Budget session. Now we find that the rice content of the ration has been reduced to 6 ounces, in spite of their promise to raise it beyond 8 ounces. We are getting worse day by day in respect of the rice position. The Government have repudiated their responsibility of feeding the population of the dry areas of the State. They are not able to feed even this small area. Here I am reminded of the report of the Committee appointed by the Madhya Pradesh Government on Prohibition, wherein they have

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recommended that instead of introducing Prohibition wholesale in the remaining parts of the State, rationing of drinks might be introduced.

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"They mean first you better introduce rationing, then there will be complete abolition. Progressively you will be going on towards abolishing the drink evil. Here rationing of rice seems to take that course! Sir, you introduce rationing and then you go on progressively reducing it and finally you may say there is no ration. They seem to prepare the people even now for it because some gentleman comes and tells them 'You give up eating of rice, you will be given any amount of wheat.' Another gentleman says 'You give up eating of cereals altogether.'"

SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—"Abolish eating altogether."

* JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"Yes, and perhaps as the President of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee says, Sir, one day they may abolish eating altogether. Perhaps that is the Utopia that they are driving at. Then, Sir, take the question of cloth. There has been no improvements in the price of cloth or in the necessity for the people having to stand in queues as you find in the City. Prices are going up. They have not tackled successfully this question of cloth. Let them ponder over this and give an answer.

"Now, take the housing problem. What is the position? The rents of houses, if anything, are rising. Sir, they are not going down as a result of what the Government have been or have not been doing all these years they have been in power. These are some of the very important things which will serve as a test for judging the achievements and the successes of the Government. Now, Sir, if you want to assess the successes or the achievements of the Government, I only want the Leader of the House to do this thing. Sir, leave alone the past speeches. Take the speeches that have been delivered these three days by the Congress members as well as the non-Congress members and make a catalogue, a list of all the complaints against the Government made by all these members and take a list of the things which are being put to the credit of the Government by these members and let him judge for himself whether he can be proud of the achievements that are being credited to the Government. Sir, even by his own partymen. Sir, we mean well by the Government and we want after all the Government to do good to the people. We want the benefits to accrue to the people from out of what the Government do and it is from that point of view Sir, that we are saying these things and let them say that they have really made use of their power to the benefit of the people in the way in which anybody could have done it. A point was raised in connection with corruption and here, Sir, I am one thoroughly in agreement with the gentleman who spoke of it. I say much of the failure of the Government is due to corruption. Supposing, Sir, you allot 30 crores of rupees for

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a certain work. In reality all the 30 crores of rupees do not go into that work. Much of it goes down the drain and therefore when all the 30 crores have gone out of your hands, there is no use seeing whether the work which you intended as a result of the expenditure of these 30 crores is there. It won't be there because all these 30 crores were not spent upon the work which you had before you. There is corruption and as long as this corruption exists nothing is possible, no progress is possible. The Government knows this state of affairs and yet they have been, Sir, very inefficient in tackling it. This corruption is another name for inefficiency, another name for everything bad, and Government knowing the situation have not done anything to tackle this evil successfully. Much of their failure and lack of achievement is due to this state of affairs in the country.

"They are now proposing, Sir, new taxation. We want them to show good results as a result of what they have already done. At least during the remaining two or three months that they have got before them let them not try to add one or two items more to their election manifesto by proposing new taxation and allowing the money to go down the drain. Sir, that is not good for the country or for the Government. Therefore let them think a hundred times and let them not bring forward these measures at the fag end of the term of the House and also at the fag end of the term of the Government.

"Now, Sir, in the midst of all this confusion one good thing has happened that we have to remember. Law and Order, Sir, has not broken down and, if it had broken down, it would have been no surprise but fortunately it has been maintained and the Government may take whatever credit is due to them on that account. But keeping Law and Order alone is not sufficient. You must show to the people that you have done well by the welfare state which you wanted to usher in in this country and there again I may say the Government will be silent as they have been silent in the past."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, much beyond our schedule we discussed the Governor's speech for a third day and far too many, I think, of the hon. Members, than on previous occasions have participated on this occasion and that has afforded an opportunity for the Members to review the position and to recapitulate what had happened during the last four or five months and perhaps during the last four or five years, and they have spoken what they wanted to. Sir, a variety of subjects was touched upon and it looked as though they were having again a general discussion on the budget proposals. Sir, I wish we had confined ourselves to what was said in the Governor's Address. As is said in the Canadian Constitution or so instead of having a replica of the budget discussion."

MR. SPEAKER:—"We can make rules for it."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not know Sir. It is entirely for you, for the Government and for the leaders of

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the parties to have something either in the form of rules or in the form of a convention so that it may not look like a general discussion on the budget. If now the general policies are all subjected to criticism I do not find, as far as I am concerned, any difference between the general discussion on the budget and the discussion on the Governor's Address. There ought to be some difference and I do not know, Sir, how we are going to evolve it either in the form of a convention or in the form of rules.

"A variety of subjects was touched and I am really glad that Members have taken so much interest in the affairs of the State and have come forward to give their views. I have no quarrel with them. They have every right to say what they feel and especially on the eve of the election one ought to be courageous enough to speak out his mind and impress upon the Government what they should do and what they should desist from doing. But, Sir, when it takes the form of mere criticism, not very constructive, then I am inclined to say that we are having a rehearsal of the election speeches we are going to make both on this side and on that side. We are entitled to make election speeches and we are entitled to give a sample of what we are going to say to the electorate. I am entitled to go and say these five years of difficulties have been faced by the Government in this manner and it is up to the Leader of the Opposition and other Members of the Opposition to go and say that in spite of the opportunities given this is how the Government has bungled and the woes of the people have not been mitigated. Certainly, Sir, both of us are entitled to make election speeches though the decision may rest with somebody else. Very soon, perhaps, at the end of November or in the first week of December we will all be touring in various districts and constituencies telling our people what the Government have done or what the Government have not done. Therefore, Sir, I think this discussion on the Governor's Address has been a rehearsal of what is yet to come in the next drama, in the next scene or whatever it is. I therefore welcome it. I now have a clear picture of what the hon. Gentleman Sri Nagappa is likely to say in his constituency or what my hon. Friend Sri Kosaraju is likely to say in his constituency and how they are going to conduct their election campaign. This has afforded an opportunity for a rehearsal of the coming scenes on the stage of elections.

"Sir, I naturally thought, specially when I gave the National Planning Commission's Report with all the figures, with all the pains for the next five years, that the attention of the hon. Members will be riveted on the National Planning Commission's proposals. I wanted them to say whether they approved of the proposals, and how we are going to finance them or whether they wanted any abridgement of the proposals or any enlargement of it or whether they are going to suggest anything else or any other means to finance this Government's programme. I naturally expected this and I therefore took the trouble to give the five-year plan and the fifteen-year plan to the Members so that they may come forward with their criticisms. But I am sorely disappointed, Sir, that

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instead of riveting their attention on this important document which is going to be the Magna Charta of any Government that is coming into being for the next five years, they have again diffused their attention on the so-called food problem in the State. Many speeches have been made in this House, perhaps with the idea of helping the Government, but I can say, Sir, all these speeches made on this side or on that side have not helped the position. The position remains the same. It rests elsewhere; it rests on so many factors and circumstances. Instead of riveting their attention on the main proposals, the concrete proposals, they thought of cheap criticism because it is very easy, especially, Sir, to state that so many people are dying, that in buses, coffee hotels and everywhere, the people are talking about the maladministration of the Government and that they do not get more than 6 ounces of rice. All these are cheap jibes at the Government indulged in by some hon. Members and I am sorry, Sir, that reviewing the past five years' speeches, we have not made much progress in that direction. I mean the House must make that sort of criticism immediately after the war and perhaps in the beginning of our administration. But after braving the difficulties of the past five years now, when a definite plan has been placed before the House, it ought to have paid more serious consideration to it than merely saying that in spite of five years' rule we have not improved in our food position and we have failed to give more than 6 ounces. Sir, some time ago I said, man is a complaining animal. I am more and more convinced of the fact that man gets consolation, some sort of satisfaction when he airs out his own complaints, his own grievances and he wants somebody to listen to him so that he can open out his heart and say I am suffering. I have a head-ache. I have stomach-ache. I did not sleep last night and therefore come and listen to my worries. Somehow, generally, people have, I do not know why, this sort of a diseased mind. You may have your own disease but it is not necessary that you should contaminate your own neighbour with all your worries and woes. Anyhow this thing is very common. In India, whenever we meet a friend we say 'I did not sleep last night. My child is not doing well and I am now in search of a doctor' and all that sort of thing. The happy, cheerful neighbour is contaminated with your own worries and diseases so much so you become a bad neighbour. But in European countries when one meets a friend one simply says 'How do you do?' The friend does not pause to tell you that he had a stomach-ache or that his child was ill. But here in India it is otherwise and we always take a pleasure in giving out complaints of our own diseases and our own gloomy pictures. This is what we do with reference to the electorate.

"When you go to the electorate, you look at things from your own angle. I wish to repeat it that when we are happy, we see all others to be happy; when we are melancholy, depressed or downhearted, we see others also melancholy and downhearted; it is our own complex that we project on others and it is why you

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say that people are miserable and unhappy. Most of the speeches were to the effect that the people of Madras are suffering and unhappy, they are all under a miserable kind of rule, there is malaadministration and they do not get food, they do not get clothes and houses to live in and all is not well with the Madras State. But on the other hand, I want to tell them that in spite of a great many difficulties, difficulties of a kind which have not been confronted by any Government just on the threshold of Independence, we have maintained law and order, proper standards of administration have been kept up; in spite of the introduction of Prohibition and a consequent loss of Rs. 17 crores the finances of our State were quite solid and sound; nothing has gone wrong and we have made tremendous and rapid progress in various direction, especially in education.

"The Begum Sahiba is always complaining about elementary education. I do not have the figures but recently, I called for the figures from the Director of Public Instruction and to my amazement and surprise and delight, I found that while in March 1946, 32,000 students appeared for the S.S.L.C. examination, the number that appeared this year is 68,000. From 32,000, it has doubled and more than doubled in five years. During the 150 years of British rule in this country, they could only open enough schools to be able to send up 32,000 students for the S.S.L.C. examination but during the last five years, 36,000 more students have gone up for the examination and next year probably, the number will be well nigh 80,000. If one were to question my achievements, could I not point it out as my achievement? Is it a mean achievement? This is my achievement and I am going to tell the people of Guntur, the people of the Rayalaseema and people elsewhere. Have we not done something tangible in the field of secondary education and collegiate education; were not thousands of boys deprived of opportunities of education all these years and are they not now coming up to secondary schools and colleges in thousands and having the benefit of higher education; is it a mean achievement? If you want to keep them in ignorance, truth will be out. We have done well, Sir, in the field of education and people appreciate it. It is not that I am merely saying that the people appreciate it. I have seen and we have seen wherever we go to open high schools or even colleges, radiant faces of men, women and children coming in their thousands literally it is a joy to see them, I am a happy man and I carry the message of happiness, the message of hope and the message of confidence to the people who gather round me and because you are unhappy, diseased and disgruntled people gather round you and you say the whole thing is all dark and dismal and unhappy; it is all how you look at things. A lawyer goes into a village and litigants gather round him; a doctor goes there and he sees so many patients and a physical instructor goes there and he will look at the healthy people there and he would like all the young people to come forward and have physical exercise. The lawyer cannot say that the whole village is full of litigants nor can the doctor say that the whole village consists of patients. It all depends

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upon how you look at things. During the first week of July, we had been to open a high school in a very remote taluk of my district and I returned to the public meeting at ten o'clock at night and we went on till eleven o'clock. Literally thousands of people from various places had come there and waited there till dead of night to see their high school opened, men, women and children by the thousands and it was a happy sight to see such a huge throng there at that hour of the night waiting there to express their joy and delight as, after long years of agitation, expectation and hope, they got their high school. Likewise when some colleges were opened, I have seen how well it was received and it was genuine joy that was expressed by those people for the things that had been done to them during the last five years.

"I want, Sir, that people should take an optimistic view of things; I want people to carry the message of hope, of happiness and confidence and people should not go about diffusing their own depression, distress, misery and despondency to the electorate. The electorate is not worried about your disappointments and your distress and all they want is to be told something definite and concrete about what you are going to do for them in the next five years. So many hon. Members have participated in the discussions but what is it that they have said? Have they said anything about the schemes under the National Planning Commission Report? The hon. Gentleman Sri Nagappa was indulging more in abuse and vilification than criticising the things that we proposed to do during the next five years. Mere vilification and abuse is not dignifying and you must go and tell the people something solid and concrete before you win their confidence. I have listened with great respect to all the speeches that have been made on the Debate on the Address but I am sorry to say that they did not give me a clear indication of what they are likely to say to the electorate except to go and tell them: the Government have failed; corruption has increased; there is much black-marketing; there is disease and there is ill-health. I say, Sir, that that is not the way you have to go to the electorate. I want you to carry the message of hope and optimism to the people; you must distribute joy to them and not distribute melancholy to them. I am an optimist and I share the optimism of the people and I know the people are optimistic and they do appreciate that in spite of difficulties, something is being done for them. I have not the least diffidence that when ultimately you and I go and approach them, their judgment will be correct and I know it will be in my favour. It does not matter what kind of speeches are made here because we are on the eve of elections and I know the country's outlook is quite bright and cheerful. The Leader of the Opposition asked me to jot down all the points made in this debate. I do not want to do it because I know the outlook of the people and therefore, I need not attach much importance to the various points that have been raised in the course of the debate. It may be suggested by some that it is a reflection on the House but really the speeches do not reflect what is happening in the country and therefore, I do not attach too much importance to what is said

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here. As I said too much time has been occupied during the last five years by discussion on the food situation. Whether it is a thing concerning Minister's salaries or the salary of legislators, let it be anything, the food question is brought forward. It requires no preparation to speak upon that question. Anybody can speak upon it extempore and no notes or figures are needed and what they have to touch on will be distribution, procurement, controls, rationing, corruption among the officials and many other points galore of a similar kind and these are brought forward. Let me point out to the House, Sir, that it is not a matter which can be tackled overnight; the neglect of decades and centuries is before us. If the food situation still continues to be bad, it is because it was so abnormal and it had been kept in such abysmal depths that it requires Himalayan efforts to uplift the country with regard to it. It only shows what degradation and depths we were in. Food imports from Burma and Siam were denied to us and we had been dependent upon them all these decades and centuries and it is not as if we were self-sufficient in 1946 and suddenly in 1951 we find ourselves in deficit. In Malabar, I made some enquiries of some dealers there and asked them whether they had been importing rice from Siam and Burma and if so, how long and I understood that they had been importing rice for the last seventy or eighty years. Therefore, we were deficit all these seventy years and without tackling that question of food, they were insistent upon the question of a six per cent return on the capital invested on projects and if it did not yield that return they did not touch such schemes with a pair of tongs. Now of course we have introduced other principles and the question of return is no consideration for us now. And then, Sir, there is the question of the growing population. It is a matter we may lose sight of; that since we last met—we met on the 6th April and we have been meeting from the 20th of this month—two lakhs of people have added to my difficulties: I have to attend to the question of their food. Every year in our country, we add 5 millions to our population and that is more than the entire population of De Valera's Ireland, which has only a population of four millions. This again is another factor which has to be faced. Let me tell the House that we are too much obsessed with the food problem. I think, Sir, we have to do something more constructive. The hon. Gentleman the Rajah Sahib of Chettinad suggested that the Food Minister must leave by the Mercury Air Service or the Deccan Air Service to Delhi and meet the Food Minister of the Government of India. It is all very well for Subhas to say: 'Delhi Chalo,' as an army of crusade or an invading army but every time, he has been suggesting that the Food Minister must go there with a begging bowl in a mendicant spirit and that the case for this State has not been put forward with sufficient strength before the Government of India. We have been pressing our case far too much and I myself felt from the correspondence that passed between this Government and the Government of India that we have been putting our case in strong language much to the annoyance of the officials there. We have done our duty

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and I do not know how friends feel that with regard to food and yarn we have not been doing our duty. We know our people and their distress and it is not as if we are oblivious of their sufferings. We tour the districts and as a matter of fact we have been called the 'tourist Ministry' and we compliment ourselves on the fact that we go to the remotest part of the State and we know the position obtaining there. We have addressed the Union Government in strong terms and when we have done that it is no use saying that you must take the plane and go to Delhi with a mendicant's bowl; it is not very dignifying and it is not very pleasing to be told to go there and you will get more. It is not as though they are unwilling to give us; we know their difficulties and we appreciate their difficulties but in spite of that we have been doing our best to impress upon them the requirements of this State and therefore to say 'Delhi Chalo' is certainly not very edifying or dignifying.

Sir, with regard to yarn, the hon. Gentleman Mr. Kothari, who is occupying a very high position in commercial circles, advised us to take an independent line of action and not to obey the dictates of the Government of India and he said that then everything will be all right and he suggested that in that event the mill owners in Coimbatore and South India would co-operate with the Government and we would have self-sufficiency and our handloom weavers could be supplied with their yarn requirements. I feel, Sir, it is a very dangerous advice, the most dangerous advice that can be offered, especially at a time when we have to depend upon their mercy, tender mercies for our food and for our capital finance. These are very delicate things. If there is no need for me to go to the Government of India for these things, I would have taken a more independent line of action and because I am dependent upon them I should adopt this course as long as I am dependent and it is no use following an independent line of action with regard to yarn. Of course, Sir, we have been pressing our claims upon them and they are also sympathetic and it may be that their calculations are sometimes upset by one factor or other. Recently also we pressed upon them saying that it is no use giving us higher counts; but that lower counts also should be given. There, Sir, the question is full of difficulties and they complain that they do not have enough of cotton and when representations were made to the Government of India to this effect they said that adequate quantity of cotton required to manufacture lower counts of yarn were not available and they are trying to get foreign cotton of a suitable type for the supply to South Indian mills and in the meanwhile they suggest that the weavers should be asked to adjust their looms for the production of cloth with the available count of yarn. Sometimes a similar situation arises in respect of yarn of higher counts. It is really a pity, Sir, that while the jute growing areas are in East Bengal the mills are all in Calcutta; it is an irony of fate, Sir, that the growing districts are on one side and the mills are on another side. The cotton growing areas are in the Punjab and Sind while the textile mills are in Bombay and Ahmedabad and other places. We are just now deficit in cotton.

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4 p.m. "We do require cotton for spinning lower counts. We have to import it at heavy cost from other countries. These are all difficulties and no responsible Government could take an independent action in this matter but must be guided by the advice of the Government of India. Even so with regard to food. When our deficit is so much, when we are finding it difficult to give even the six ounces of rice, we cannot adopt any independent line of action either in regard to controls or decontrol or in regard to rationing of food. All these must be guided by the Government of India. They do invite us for monthly conferences, the Food officials confer at Bombay, Delhi and other places, and so we will have to be guided by their decisions. Because any isolated line of action will bring us to ruin and destruction. So in spite of five years' experience, Sir, we are unable to cut away from the Central pool and think of an independent line of action.

"Sir, another matter; all the speakers, during all these five years, have not appreciated the full loss we have sustained because of the failure of monsoons. After all, people might say, 'You tell us, what you had done?' Sir, it is a natural calamity. For four years in succession we had failure of monsoons—a very formidable factor which had upset all our calculations and which had thrown any amount of financial burden on our Exchequer. Last year, when I was asking some commercial-tax officers as to why we had a fall in the entertainments tax, which had nothing to do with the failure of monsoon, they told me, there was no water in Pykara, and so there was an electricity cut by 25 per cent and so the cinemas could not have the second and third shows and therefore in April, May and June, there was a fall in the entertainments tax. Sir, it was a revealing factor to me, for I never expected that the failure of monsoon would have such wide repercussions. Because of the failure of monsoon, our land revenue remissions had to go up by 50 or 60 lakhs and we had to incur a huge expenditure by way of famine relief work. So the failure of monsoon had such wide repercussions in this State that all our time-tables, and all our schedules had been upset. The failure of monsoon was in such succession that it looked as though Nature was testing the morale of the people. For the last four years, the southern districts, and some districts like Chittoor had no timely rains and therefore our food difficulties had been doubled and trebled. People say that in 1946 in the first year of Congress regime, we were given 16 ounces of rice. I know it, but at what cost and under what circumstances and under what conditions? There was no failure of monsoon then; all the districts had copious rainfall; for in 1946, in the months of November and December, we had almost a surplus rainfall. Then, people going to Delhi and Calcutta were held up because the trains were held up on those lines. But under the head of Civil Supplies Department that year, we had to incur a very heavy expenditure. Twelve crores of rupees were spent on the Civil Supplies Department so that the people

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could be given ration. But we cannot spend 12 crores of rupees every year, and therefore we had to cut down the expenditure on the Civil Supplies Department. I am glad that the people are putting up their morale in spite of these difficulties. Really I sympathise with them. I know their difficulties. I have seen them. Some of the ladies have spoken to me about their difficulties. They asked me to give them some more rice. Then, of course, we did go into the matter and we did examine it. But we know, all the same, to what difficulties they are put sometimes. But I must congratulate the people generally for their morale for some of them are ill, some of them are patients and some of them are in need of medical aid. But the people generally have put up their morale. They have appreciated the difficulties of the Government, and they did respond to the call of the Government very well indeed. Therefore, Sir, I take this opportunity of congratulating the people on the high morale they maintained all these years. I hope they will try to maintain that morale even in times of adversity, if need be. Instead of merely complaining and airing their grievances, I think they have kept their morale very well. For there was no serious disturbance, because law and order was maintained. That again is a sign that we have controlled the food situation quite well. If we have not controlled the food situation, there would have been food riots, mobbing and so on, but nothing whatever occurred in any part of the country. So the very fact that they had not occurred is again proof positive that all was not so bad as it was depicted by certain hon. Members. Therefore I am certainly entitled to take credit that we had no food riots, that there were no starvation deaths, and that the morale was maintained very well indeed."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"Congratulations."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"With regard to the question of controls and decontrols, it is a very big question. It has been discussed *ad nauseam* both in the Government circles and in the Congress circles and also in this Chamber. Sir, we should not take any risk with regard to decontrols.

(At this stage Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

"Hon. Member, Mr. Karanth complained that in spite of his protest this House was a party to the Government decision with regard to derationing and therefore in many places the people had not anything to eat. If he complained about derationing, there were people who pleaded very hard for decontrol. I know in deficit districts what protests there will be if there was no control at all. No two people think alike in this matter. Some people want controls and some people want decontrol. In between, we cannot make any experiments with the lives of the people and therefore we follow the golden mean of continuing the controls till such time as there is enough food in the country, when we are satisfied that production has stepped up. Till such time we cannot go on experimenting

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with the lives of the people. Though it is unpopular, we know yet we have to continue these controls for some time—till there is no failure of monsoon and there is abundant crop and food coming from foreign countries. Then we can take the risk of having decontrol with regard to food. Therefore we cannot afford to take any risk, and so the *status quo* must be maintained in spite of the fact that these controls bring in a good deal of unpopularity. We know it. All our officials are not above board. Here and there, there are some officials who are tempted by the rich producers and the rich consumers, who tempt them with bribes and make these officers corrupt. I cannot entirely blame these people for their corruption. It is the people who corrupt them and the blame, therefore, lies equally with the people also."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Both sides are to blame."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Both sides! No. As far as I am concerned, most often, it is the people who tempt the low-paid officers with bribes. Often they begin with high ideals; they are honest. But very soon they find themselves in the good books of some blackmarketer or some unscrupulous producer and they are tempted to these small things. Therefore I cannot blame the officials alone. I blame the entire population also. Therefore the public morals of our country must be lifted up so that all of us can say we are leading an honest life. When large sections of people are not honest in their public dealings with regard to purchase and distribution of foodgrains, it is no use blaming a petty Firka Supply Officer who is paid 50 or 60 rupees, that he has been corrupt. After all it is a vicious circle and it is no use blaming the officials alone. I do not know where to cut the base. Therefore it is no use being uncharitable to the officials. After all, they are poor people. When big people tempt them they succumb. So there is no use blaming officials alone. Everyone has to share this reproach of corruption."

"Whatever it is, the failure of the monsoon as being the cause for the scarcity of food in the State has been appreciated by the people outside. Again I have to say that food deficiency is not our creation, and so there is no use saying that under the Congress Government all things have gone wrong. We had been getting on with food deficiency for decades and now it is up to us to make good that deficiency wherever we are deficient."

"Then, Madam, with regard to housing also, there was some criticism. In fact food, clothing and housing were the chief subjects in regard to which Government was criticised. These are the three post-war responsibilities of the Government. Prior to the war when we were in office in 1937, there was no question of housing difficulties or scarcity of food or cloth. It is all the creation of war. Begum Amiruddin complained that in this city there are very many people in the Armenian street, in Georgetown, in Vepery and elsewhere sleeping on the pavements."

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I ask, were they not sleeping on the pavements before the Congress Government came into power. (Laughter.) They were. Therefore the Corporation of Madras was trying even before the Congress Government came into office to tackle this housing problem all these years. Yet the problem is still enormous; it baffles Government. For the first two or three years we were trying to solve the problem without planning. Ultimately we found we had to form co-operative societies. To-day about 293 co-operative house-building societies are functioning. We have distributed nearly three crores of rupees. Over five thousand houses have been completed. About two thousand houses will be completed in a month or two. Hereafter the achievement will be more tangible, as we are now solving problem according to a plan. We have provided for three crores for housing under the National Planning Scheme which no other State has provided. I have got with me the report of the National Planning Commission. Therein I see the Madras Government has asked for three crores under Housing for the next five years, while Bombay has asked for only twenty-seven lakhs."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"Perhaps it is not acute there." (Laughter.)

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Bombay has asked before."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Whatever it is, for the next five years we have asked for Rs. 3,00,00,000 for housing alone and that is the highest figure that I see in the report of the National Planning Commission. We have already distributed Rs. 3,00,00,000 and another Rs. 3,00,00,000 will be made available to co-operative societies. Houses will be built, some return will be forthcoming and that money again will be utilized for housing. It is not correct to say that we have not done our duty. We have been doing our bit. We have given Rs. 30,00,000 to the City Improvement Trust which also is trying to build some houses. With the Rs. 3,00,00,000 which we have placed at the disposal of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, about 293 societies are functioning in various places. Very soon they will be increasing their tempo of work and we will have a number of houses."

4.15
p.m.

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"All for the rich."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"When rich people go to new houses, the houses that they vacate will be available for the poor people. If Gandhinagar had not been built, all the four hundred people would not have moved to the houses there and the houses they were occupying formerly would not be available to the lower and middle class people who could afford to pay the rent. After all, they are also Indians. We are not giving them the houses free; we are charging interest. It does not matter even if some houses costing Rs. 40,000 or Rs. 50,000 have been built. Our new policy is to see that the cost of each house does not exceed Rs. 10,000. We do not lend for houses costing more than"

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Rs. 10,000. Therefore a number of middle class houses will come into being, and we will be showing our achievement in the new responsibility that has been thrust on us.

"With these preliminary remarks, I go to the five-year plan of the National Planning Commission which I wanted the hon. Members to discuss in a thorough manner. I am disappointed that they did not pay much attention to it. One of the good things done by the Government of India was the setting up of a National Planning Commission. Ministers and Secretaries to Government are busy with daily routine matters and small matters and they cannot devote sufficient attention to big matters. The Government appointed a commission of experts under the chairmanship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to go into the question of national planning. Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin complained that things were done in a haphazard manner, in a random manner, that there was no plan or policy and that things were taking shape erratically. It was thought that there must be an expert body to evolve a national plan and give priorities to the various schemes. There was a demand for more money from every department and a detached body of people could weigh the demands of various departments and allot priorities. The Commission did very useful work. It did not invent something; it did not create something which is fantastic. Its members are hard realists. It is all very easy to draw up a development programme for the Madras State costing Rs. 3,00,00,00,000 or 4,00,00,00,000. We must have the wherewithal to finance the programme either from revenues or borrowings or from conversion of securities. We must have the money to accomplish what we promise. The Congress election manifesto of 1937 or 1946 did not place any definite plan before the electorate but only indicated in very vague and general terms the policies that the party would adopt when returned to power like abolition of zamindaris, improvement of the position of ryots and abolition of drink. For the first time the Government of India and the State Governments have placed a definite plan before the electorate. We want the verdict of the people as to whether they want or do not want the plan. There is no half-way about it. If they want the plan, certain consequences like additional taxation, retrenchment and conversion of securities follow. If they do not want the plan but want to maintain the *status quo*, I have no objection and they can certainly have their way. But I know that people are very anxious to have irrigation projects, power projects, schools and colleges, hospitals and roads and they want to move forward. Some hon. Members feel that we are moving very fast. The hon. Gentleman Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan also thinks that we are moving very fast."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"No, no."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"He did say something to the effect that we had bitten more than what we could munch and that we were in a hurry to do things. There were other Members who said that we were moving at a snail's pace and that they did not see any difference between 1946 and 1951. These are

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two extreme views. The Government have to take the path of the golden mean and move in a responsible manner. They cannot move very fast and exhaust themselves or move very slow or remain without moving at all leaving the people in complete despondency and distress. As far as the national plan is concerned, I am really very serious about it because it is going to be a part of the election manifesto of our party. Hon. Members may call this an election stunt; it does not matter. We want to put it before the electorate and get their clear verdict. Do they want this planning or not and, if they want, do they agree to fresh taxation or not? If they do not agree to taxation, what is the alternative? It is a public matter and it has to be canvassed publicly. I am sure they do want this national plan and they will certainly vote for this national taxation. I have no doubt about it. The Congress election manifesto has not yet been issued. There was a reference to the national plan forming part of the manifesto at the recent Bangalore session of the All-India Congress Committee. When the manifesto is issued, the five-year national plan will form part of it.

"The hon. Gentleman Mr. Muhammad Ismail, Leader of the Opposition, complains that whenever the Opposition criticises, the Government always come out with formidable figures of expenditure on electricity, irrigation, etc., and says: 'Do not tell me about your figures. Tell me about your achievement. How much more food have you actually produced?' Projects cannot be completed within six months, one year or even two years. Unless we spend for many years, they cannot be completed. We have to go on incurring expenditure and only at the end of ten or fifteen years we will get just a little return. It takes time for irrigation to develop. The acreage brought under cultivation under the Mettur Project has not yet come up to our original expectations. Likewise, in a hydro-electric project it takes time for the load to develop. Industries have to be started and agricultural pumps have to be installed. People do not develop them all of a sudden and it takes time. Unless we spend on these projects, we cannot get any benefit. If we do not spend, we will be neglecting our duty as our predecessors did and posterity will curse us for our neglect. Instead of being obsessed with the present all the while, I want to look ahead and see that something is done for the future. It may be that I may not live to enjoy the fruits of the seeds that I am now sowing. My son or grandson will reap the harvest. In that spirit any Government must plan and we have done exceedingly well with regard to electricity and irrigation. I want to give some figures for the information of the hon. Members. During the five years from 1946-47 to 1950-51, we have spent Rs. 17,44,00,000 on irrigation and Rs. 22,14,00,000 on capital outlay on electricity schemes including the acquisition of the Madras Power House. Thus on irrigation and power alone we have spent nearly Rs. 40,00,00,000 during the last five years. This is not a mean achievement! Towards capital expenditure on industrial development, road transport and other items, we have spent Rs. 45,56,00,000 during the same period. Ordinarily capital expenditure is financed from

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borrowings. I am entitled to borrow either from the Government of India or from the open market and finance this capital outlay to the tune of Rs. 45,56,00,000. But I have actually borrowed only Rs. 18,95,00,000—Rs. 10,46,00,000 from the Government of India and Rs. 8,49,00,000 from the open market. That is the position. I want the Leader of the Opposition to understand my difficulty."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—"It is a financial jugglery."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It may be a financial jugglery. But it has been a tremendous strain on our securities and ways and means position. Fortunately we have securities to the tune of about 8 to 9 crores of rupees. If we want to develop the Tungabhadra, Krishna-Pennar, Lower Bhavani and the Malampuzha projects, we require some crores of rupees every month. Unless there is a full response from the public for the loans we contemplate, it will be very difficult for us to continue the programme. As I have already pointed out, we have incurred a capital expenditure of Rs. 45 crores but borrowed only about Rs. 19 crores. Therefore we are entitled to borrow another Rs. 26 crores even for the capital expenditure incurred in the past. My future programme is important. I want Rs. 20 crores this year and 20 crores next year. Unless we keep up the tempo of expenditure, our schemes will not come to fruition according to schedule. The other day I visited the Lower Bhavani Project area. Twenty thousand people are working at the headworks and twenty thousand people at the canal section. A new city has grown up there. Unless we go on supplying finance, the project cannot be completed and whatever has been spent will become a waste. I do hope that the loan which is going to be sponsored by the Reserve Bank of India very shortly will be a success and that the hon. Gentleman Mr. Kothari and others will do their bit to help me to get full subscription for the loan. I have launched upon a very huge capital expenditure of Rs. 137 crores in the next five years. All that requires huge finance from the public. There is need for a little sacrifice in this respect. Without a little sacrifice, our plans cannot go through. Whether the necessary finance is got by savings or additional taxation, ultimately the burden is going to fall on the people and we do want their patriotic response in this respect. If the hon. Members want to maintain the *status quo*, then of course we need not launch upon the development schemes. I know the people's mind in this matter. They do want us to go forward and they want us to undertake the schemes. It is not as if they are unwilling to pay; they are prepared to sacrifice a bit because ultimately the expenditure incurred is going to give them a good return.

"Madam, many members have criticized that the Governor's speech was an election speech of the Ministry and that the Ministry have put their party interest above the interests of the country. Sir, we are not political *sanyasis*. There may be individual *sanyasis* in the Congress. But the Congress as a body is going to contest the next elections. They do want to be returned, and they are confident of being returned. So, if it is going to be an election speech or mere window-dressing, no sane party and no sober party

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would have brought forward these taxation proposals at what is termed the *faag end* of the Legislature. They want the matter to be taken in a very serious manner. They do not want to hide their mailed fists and go to the people with pleasing faces and slogans, get returned and immediately after pounce upon the electorate with additional taxation. We are going to place the Planning Commission Report with the taxation proposals also before the people, and get their verdict. It is no use camouflaging in this respect. They know they have to bear taxation to the tune of Rs. 20 crores. Though the taxation proposals may not come into force immediately or before the next elections—the *fasli* year begins in July only—the people must be told of the intentions of the Government and of the intentions of the party that is going to contest all the seats in the State, and get a clear verdict from the people. After all, in this national planning, we are going to spend on hydro-electricity Rs. 45 crores and on irrigation Rs. 50 crores. Without telling the people, how are we going to get the money? It is not honest to say that we do not tell the people of what we are going to do and how we are going to get the money. The people do appreciate things when they are told. When they are not told they are ignorant. They may indulge in criticism. But when they are told, they are sensible enough to respond to the Government's call, and, therefore, it is but right that we tell the people that 'taxation is an integral part of your national planning; if you do not tax yourselves, to that extent, your national planning must be abridged or curtailed.' Therefore it is a matter worthwhile pursuing. We should tell the people directly 'here is a plan which contemplates additional taxation; do you or do you not want it'. These taxation measures may not come into force immediately, because land revenue collections will be made some time later—perhaps in 1952. But we thought we must tell the people of what we intend doing instead of camouflaging. We could have done all these things under a camouflage, but we did not do it. We do not want to do it, and we do not want to be criticised later on for any taxation that the party in power wants to bring. Our anxiety in this matter may be appreciated by not only the members of the House but also by the general public. If, as the hon. Member Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin says, we are unpopular and our additional taxation proposals are also unpopular, certainly it is open to the electorate to vote down the Congress candidates and return to power other candidates. We have no objection to that at all. The electorate are all powerful. It is up to the other parties to educate the people to that extent and capitalise their opposition to the Government or capitalise their grievances against the Government, and then try to come into power. We have no objection to that. But we must be honest to ourselves. Therefore, we have put up these proposals, and it is for the Joint Select Committee which will be set up to modify the proposals. We do not say that the proposals must be accepted *in toto*. It is up to the Joint Select Committee of both the Houses to examine the proposals carefully, modify them, or do whatever they like. We do not pin them down to any particular decisions. What I mean to say is that

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they may modify them and they may do whatever they like. But the people must be told that there is need for additional taxation. Otherwise, the five-year programme cannot be implemented. The people desire that the five-year programme should be implemented. People have been clamouring for these schemes. How cheerful the people were when they saw the Araniyar project being inaugurated in Chingleput? Two thousand women and seven thousand men from Chingleput and Chittoor came with beaming faces, because they were asking for this project for the last fifty years, and ultimately when we went there to lay the foundation of the project, there was tremendous joy among the villagers, and they were all happy that ultimately the Government responded to their demand and inaugurated the scheme. Likewise, whenever we completed small works costing Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 1,00,000, the villagers were all happy. When we repaired the tanks, the people were happy. Tanks in the zamindari areas had not been repaired all these years. Just now after the abolition of the zamindaris, the zamindari tanks have been repaired. Last year we spent Rs. 90 lakhs on tank repairs—zamindari tanks mostly. I know how joyful the people were when they saw the tanks repaired. In my own district—mostly half of it is zamindari—in Darsi, Podili and Sulurpet taluka many tanks have been repaired. The people expressed their gratitude that after all and at last their tanks had been repaired. I have been touring the zamindari areas, and in my own district in some places, the Rent Reduction Act has helped the people considerably. Assessment of Rs. 18 per acre for garden land has been reduced to Rs. 6 per acre. Where the assessment was Rs. 12 it was brought down to Rs. 6. In many places the assessment was reduced to six annas, in some other places eight annas, and in still some others ten annas. When I asked the people whether it is not a fact that they received the benefit of the Rent Reduction Act and also the benefit of the repair of the zamindari tanks after the zamindaris had been abolished, they all said 'Yes; certainly it is a great boon to us that rents have been reduced; we were rackrented before; our tanks have all been now repaired'. All this means that we are taking the step in the right direction regarding the Grow More Food Campaign and increasing food production. Of course, all tank repairs will mean nothing if there is no proper rain. We hope at least this year there will be ample rainfall.

"Madam, it is not as though we do want to become unpopular by imposing additional taxation. Whatever I wanted to do, I did in the beginning itself and not at the fag-end of the present Assembly. We had occasion to discuss the enhancement of petrol tax from 1½ annas to 4 annas. Then we doubled the betting tax. We increased the entertainments tax. We increased the sales tax from 2 pies to 3 pies, and we also included other luxury goods in the list. Only two years ago, we had occasion to increase the motor vehicles tax which gave immediately a crore of rupees without any opposition from others."

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN:—"No, no."

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Silently something was done here, and my revenue went up by a crore of rupees in one year. My taxation proposals were all over in the beginning. Now it is the task of Hon. Mr. Sitarama Reddi, Minister for Revenue. He has come at the fag-end. He is in charge of planning, and it is right that he should tell the people 'this is what we intend doing and this is how we intend getting the necessary finance for our capital expenditure'.

"With regard to elections His Excellency the Governor has already stated that our elections will be held very soon. We are already drawing up our time-tables. The nominations for the various constituencies will be called in the third week of November, on or about the 21st or 22nd November, and the final list of valid nominations will be published on or about the 1st of December. Polling will commence from the 2nd January and will go on till 25th January 1952. It is to be done on seven polling days, because we require a lot of Police bandobust. The Police have to be moved from place to place. In spite of whatever has been stated by the hon. Gentleman Mr. Nagappa and others, we will certainly see that we conduct free and fair elections. It is the standing instruction to all our officers that they should not participate in the party warfare, that they should not take sides, and that they should not do anything either in favour of the Government or against the Government, for I am afraid some of them may go against Government because of personal grudges regarding dearness allowance, etc. They should not do anything against the Government nor should they do anything in favour of Government because of certain things done to them. They can exercise their franchise without telling people how they are going to vote. Without trying to canvass people, they can exercise their franchise. In the elections they should not take sides.

"In this connexion, Madam, I do want to say that there was some reference in the other House to certain talks I had with the Leader of the Opposition here. I am sorry that nobody knows even to-day—neither the Press nor the members of the other House or this House—what exactly happened between me and the Leader of the Opposition. Yet the Press have written editorials, and they have given banner head lines. There was a discussion in the other House without exactly knowing what happened between me and the Leader of the Opposition. Nor do I want to tell them even now. My amusement was heightened when people were trying to surmise that we were trying to gather support. But what stands uppermost in my mind is that I have every right to invite everybody into the Congress. After all, even according to the Bangalore session of the All-India Congress Committee, all people who agree with the election manifesto of the Congress are eligible to come into the Congress. There is no bar against anybody. It is like the temple gates open to everybody who believes in the worship. It is not a religious temple; it is a political temple, and people can come into it. I have every right to invite hon. Gentlemen like Mr. Muhammad Ismail or Mr. Kothari or the Raja of Chettinad or Mr. Nagappa. I am

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entitled to make that appeal, and I do not think I have gone against the principles of the Congress or against the principles of democracy. When people agree with the election manifesto of any political party, they can be invited to come into that party. Therefore, I was only amused at the reference to my talks with the Leader of the Opposition. In my absence something was said in the other House by the Leader of the Opposition there, and Mr. Ibrahim was rising to reply when Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar came in between."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The point has not been referred to in this House, and the Hon. Minister cannot reply to that."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If nothing has been mentioned, I need not make any reference to that subject. I thought, since the Governor's Address was an Address to both Houses of the Legislature . . ."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"Without making reference to the other House, the Hon. Minister can speak generally."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Whatever it is, Madam, I only want to assure the minorities—Muslims, Christians, etc.—that they must, instead of thinking purely on sectarian lines, come into the common field, and work with the political parties. They must also align themselves, if they agree with what is being done by the Government and with the policies of the Government, and join the Government party. There is nothing wrong in the Government party or Opposition party inviting anybody to its party. Therefore, I take this opportunity of assuring the minorities of fair treatment—whether they join us or not is their own lookout, and it is not my lookout—and it is also my duty to extend my invitation to them on behalf of the Congress. Even the Congress Working Committee has welcomed them and invited them. I also add my humble voice to the appeal made by big leaders, the Congress President and others. 'If you agree with what is being done by the Government, you are entitled to come into the Government party', is what we say. I welcome them to come into the Government party. I assure the minorities that the Congress Government, as long as it is in power, will look after the interests of the minorities, and that the minorities need have no misapprehensions about their future. We are trying our best to take the Muslims along with us. We are trying our best to take the Christians along with us. We do not want anybody to feel that he has been left behind and that somebody else is going ahead. I want everybody to march ahead, because this is everybody's task. It is nobody's task in particular. If there is good Government in the State, certainly the people will be happy. If there is a bad Government, the people will be only sorry for it."

4-45 P.M. "Therefore, it is up to us to see that the hands of the Government are strengthened and the interests of the minority and majority communities are all safeguarded without leaving any feeling in anybody that it is a Hindu raj, Muslim raj or Christian

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raj. We must make an attempt to see that we have a secular democracy in our State. I once again appeal to the political party leaders to see that no bitterness is introduced into our election campaign. There is nothing wrong in various parties opposing each other. After all, we have to approach the electorate in this matter. I do want that we should not do anything which will hit below the belt of our opponents. We want to adopt only fair methods in our election campaign. In conclusion, I request the hon. Members who have moved amendments to withdraw them and thus allow the main motion moved by my hon. Friend Sri Thangaswami Nadar to go through. I shall be happy if all the amendments are withdrawn by leave of the House."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister whether a copy of the report of the Planning Commission will be circulated to all the members of the House before we disperse to-day?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We do not have enough copies just now. Anyway, we shall consider the suggestion of the hon. Member."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"May I know whether the various points raised in the course of the discussion will be attended to by the departments?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"As I said during the budget discussion, all the speeches of the hon. Members will be examined by the various departments. Although I might not have referred to some of the points mentioned by the hon. Members, I may inform the House that the departments will examine them and take action wherever necessary. Even though I have not mentioned anything about the points raised by hon. Members, Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillay, Sri Karanth or Sri Nagappa, it does not mean that the departments will not examine their points."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—"May I know whether a day will be allotted for the discussion of the report of the Planning Commission, so far as it related to this State, during the present sitting of the House?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"For the first time we had three days' discussion on His Excellency's Address. I naturally expected that the hon. Members will devote more attention to the report of the Planning Commission instead of referring to what is happening in the Food Department or some other department. Yet they have missed the opportunity. I do not know whether a day can be allotted during this sitting in view of the pressure of work. We shall do so in September if necessary. (At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

"The amendments moved by hon. Members Janab M. S. Abdul Majid, Janab M. S. Ataullah, Sri K. R. Karanth, Sri V. M. Ramaswami Mudalivar, Sri L. N. Gopalaswami, Sri K. Bhashyam,

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Sri B. S. Murthy, Sri M. R. Appa Rao, Sri S. Nagappa, Sri K. Linga Raju, Sri Pydah Venkatanarayana, Sri V. Raghavayya and Sri G. Rajamannar were deemed as withdrawn as they were not in their places.

The amendments moved by hon. Members Sri A. Kaleswara Rao, Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillay, Sri G. Kumaraswami and Sri V. Jagga Raju were, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I am now going to put the main motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

'That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor as follows:—

"May it please Your Excellency,

We, the members of the Madras Legislative Assembly, beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the Address delivered to both the Houses of the Legislature." "

The motion was carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I now adjourn the House till 11 a.m. on Monday, the 27th August 1951."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 27th August 1951.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 10 asked by Sri S. Nagappa, at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 24th August 1951, page 179 supra.]

Name of Polytechnic.	Cost of raw materials purchased (including the expenditure on materials purchased for giving practical training to students of Diploma courses or of Technical Training Scheme which are not productive).				Cost of articles manufactured (manufacturing jobs are undertaken only in Industrial School sections).			
	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51		1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(5)	(6)	(7)	
1 Rayalaseema Polytechnic, Bellary.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
	12,849 0 0	11,859 0 0	13,565 0 0		17,373 0 0	13,776 0 0	21,679 0 0	
2 Tamil Nad Polytechnic, Madurai.	19,220 14 10	28,395 4 10	43,726 13 8		44,916 13 2	27,624 1 9	37,077 3 3	
3 Vuyyuru Polytechnic, Vuyyuru.	170 0 0	469 6 5	3,308 8 9		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
					(No Industrial School section.)			
4 Karnataka Polytechnic, Mangalore.	2,361 11 3	5,365 11 3	2,559 3 8		5,620 7 4	15,559 14 11	18,927 3 6	
5 Andhra Polytechnic, Kakinada.	1,447 0 5	2,251 10 8	1,874 10 3		1,510 13 6	3,969 10 9	2,161 11 11	
6 Kerala Polytechnic, Kozhikode.	32,845 15 0	47,248 8 0	40,623 14 0		29,972 9 0	45,290 0 0	33,064 0 0	
7 Arthur Hope Polytechnic, Coimbatore.	2,696 8 6	7,083 3 9	7,739 9 5		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
					(No commercial jobs are entertained in the institution, the only two certificate courses being Automobile and Radio Servicing.)			
8 Central Polytechnic, Madras ..	54,202 0 0	49,662 0 0	45,266 0 0		2,508 0 0	3,997 0 0	12,735 0 0	

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 11, asked by Sri P. Venkatasubbiah, at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 24th August 1951, page 179 supra.]

*Reclamation by the use of tractors and bulldozers from
1st April 1950 to 31st March 1951.*

Serial number.	Name of district.	Total extent of lands reclaimed in acres.
1	North Visakhapatnam (Srikakulam)	1,191
2	South Visakhapatnam	1,680
3	East Godavari	2,061
4	West Godavari	3,519
5	Krishna	3,786
6	Guntur	5,004
7	Nellore	3,377
8	Karnool	1,321
9	Anantapur	3,949
10	Bellary	4,533
11	Cuddapah	2,685
12	Chittoor	1,707
13	North Arcot	1,568
14	Chingleput	3,177
15	South Arcot	1,939
16	Tanjore	5,503
17	Tiruchirappalli	2,877
18	Madurai	2,000
19	Tirunelveli	2,358
20	Ramanathapuram	3,183
21	Salem	3,029
22	Coimbatore	6,259
23	The Nilgiris	575
24	Malabar	1,989
25	South Kanara	1,102
26	Araku Valley	301
	Total	69,433

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, the 27th August 1951.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Teak and casuarina plantations in Rayalaseema.

* 21 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state the total number of Government teak and casuarina plantations planted this year in Rayalaseema?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister):—"During 1950-51, 130½ acres have been planted with teak in Rayalaseema. No casuarina plantations are being raised in Rayalaseema."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know in what districts of Rayalaseema—there are five districts—these plantations have been raised?"

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

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Do the Government think that Nallamalais offer a congenial place for the growth of teak, which, I believe, does not?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I have no information, Sir. Whatever information was asked for has been furnished."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether casuarina plantation was tried in Rayalaseema and later given up or it was not tried at all? If the latter, may I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of growing casuarina in Rayalaseema?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We cannot try the impossible in Rayalaseema. Casuarina requires certain kinds of soil and good rainfall. It is not, therefore, considered desirable to try an experiment there which we know will be a failure."

Educational concessions to Harijan Christians.

* 22 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government propose to give educational concessions to Harijan Christians who get themselves reconverted to Hinduism?

[27th August 1951]

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Government are not aware of any community as Harijan Christians. If the hon. Member means converts to Christianity from Harijans, under the existing rules, converts to Christianity from Harijan communities without reconversion to Hinduism are eligible for the grant of educational concession. But the full fee concession recently extended to Harijans in elementary and secondary schools is restricted only to Harijans and not to converts to Christianity from Harijan communities. Harijans who are converts to Christianity will, however, continue to get the half-fee concession in elementary and secondary schools and the full fee concession in colleges, as they have hitherto been getting. Converts to Christianity from Harijans on their reconversion to Hinduism will become eligible for the additional concession, viz., the full fee concession in elementary schools and secondary schools, only five years after such reconversion."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" In view of the fact that the Harijan converts to Christianity are equally in a bad plight as the Harijans and that their children are as illiterate as those of others, will the Government consider the desirability of granting such converts the same concessions as are given to the Harijans? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Converts are not Harijans and they are not entitled to concessions which the Harijans are entitled to."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" Are the Government convinced that the economic condition of Harijans and converts to Christianity is the same? If so, may I know what makes the Government have this invidious distinction between Harijans and Harijan converts to Christianity in the matter of educational concessions to Harijan children studying in the secondary and elementary schools? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" No concession which a Harijan was getting before conversion has been taken away from him. But there are certain facilities given to Harijans from out of the Harijan Fund for which Harijans alone are eligible and which are not given to Christians."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—" May I ask whether these concessions are applicable to the members of Scheduled Castes and tribes such as Paravan, Kuravan, Fishermen, etc.? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" They get concessions which the Backward Communities are entitled to get."

Number of Live-stock and Veterinary Assistants in Forest department.

* 23 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state the total number of Inspectors of Live-stock and Veterinary Assistants in the Forest department and their functions?

[27th August 1951]

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) :—" There are one Inspector of Live-stock and two Assistant Veterinary Inspectors in the Forest department. The duties of these officers are generally to visit within their jurisdiction all live-stock camps, inspect the animals, attend to the required medical treatment and render technical advice on all matters connected with feeding, dragging rest, etc., to be given to departmental elephants, bulls and buffaloes. The Inspector of Live-stock is, in addition to supervising the work of Assistant Veterinary Inspectors, also in direct charge of the elephants of Nilambur and South Kanara Divisions in Ootacamund circle. His jurisdiction extends to the whole of the Madras State and he has to tour all divisions where Forest department live-stock exists. He has also to pay attention to the animal capturing operations and the training of captures."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" As the Hon. Minister says that capturing animals is one of the duties of the Inspectors, may I know how many animals have been captured by these Inspectors so far in the Presidency? "

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

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" May I know how these Inspectors are recruited, whether departmentally or by the Public Service Commission? May I also know the qualifications prescribed for the post of Inspector? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The question is far wide of the mark."

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

Termination of the services of the Headmaster of Nandanar High School, Chidambaram.

* 24 Q.—SRI S. PARAMANANDA RAYAR (on behalf of Sri S. A. Devanayaga Iyah) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the services of the headmaster of Nandanar High School, Chidambaram, were terminated recently without assigning any reasons; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the termination?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) & (b) The Collector of South Arcot discharged the headmaster of the Government Nandanar High School, Chidambaram, without observing the procedure in the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules. The case has been remitted to the Collector for disposal after following the rules."

[27th August 1951]

Representations regarding the payment of salary to teachers working in municipalities.

* 25 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN (on behalf of Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai): Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether any representations have been made recently regarding the payment of Secondary Grade salary to Higher Grade teachers working in municipalities qualifying themselves for Secondary Grade; and, if so, what action the Government have taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“A representation was received from the Secretary, Municipal Teachers' Union, Mannargudi, on 28th November 1950 regarding the payment of Secondary Grade salary to Higher Grade teachers working in municipalities qualifying themselves for Secondary Grade.

“The Secondary Grade trained teachers in local body elementary schools are not automatically given the Secondary Grade scale of pay without regard to their appointment to Secondary Grade posts, viz., headmaster of a complete lower elementary school with four or more teachers on its staff, headmaster of a Higher Elementary school and teachers in charge of Higher Elementary standards of a Higher Elementary school in view of the poor financial resources of the local body. The request of the Union was not therefore complied with.”

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—“May I know whether there is any difference between the scales of pay applicable to the Secondary Grade teachers serving under the Pudukottai Municipality and those applicable to others? If there is difference, will the Government take steps to bring the scale of pay of Secondary Grade teachers in Pudukottai to the same level as others so that there may be uniformity?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“The scale of pay of teachers under municipalities all through the State is one and the same, and my impression is that the teachers working under the Pudukottai Municipality are also getting the same pay. If they are not getting, steps will be taken to bring their pay into line with the rest.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“In view of the fact that most of the teachers who qualify themselves by the Higher Grade are not promoted as Secondary Grade teachers and that preference is given to outsiders in the matter of appointment, will the Government consider the desirability of taking steps to see that municipalities promote their own teachers whenever they get qualified instead of bringing in men from outside?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“It is a matter which the municipalities themselves will have to look into. We will certainly use our good offices in cases where they have not done so.”

[27th August 1951]

Sweet toddy tapping in Edakka Nadu area in Chingleput district.

* 26 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN (on behalf of Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai): Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have allowed sweet toddy tapping in Edakka Nadu area in Chingleput district;

(b) if so, in how many villages;

(c) whether there has been any abuse in sweet toddy tapping in this area previously; and

(d) if the answer to clause (c) is in the affirmative the reasons that prompted the Government to allow sweet toddy tapping again?

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

“(b) 24 villages covered by 22 co-operative societies.

“(c) & (d) There had been some cases of abuse in sweet toddy tapping in this area and the licences were cancelled. The ex-tappers however represented to Government again and gave an assurance that the concession if given would not be misused. The Government examined the question and have allowed sweet toddy tapping again in this area on this assurance and having regard to the food value of sweet toddy in the existing food shortage.”

SRI P. NATESAN:—“May I know how sweet toddy can be ‘abused’? May I know what the word ‘abused’ means?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“‘Abused’ means allowing it to be fermented.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“May I know whether the Government are not convinced that tapping of sweet toddy is an inducement for illicit distillation? Has not allowing of sweet toddy tapping led to the partial failure of the Prohibition movement?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“After all, there may be some cases where there are abuses. But invariably the co-operative societies take proper steps to put down such abuses. Of course, there are possibilities of abuse.”

SRI P. NATESAN:—“May I know whether sweet toddy will be allowed to be tapped in Madras itself?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Let the hon. Member put a separate question.”

Bharathi's books.

* 27 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN (on behalf of Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai): Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government have made any arrangements for the availability of Bharathi's books in the market and if so, what they are?

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THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" ' Yes ' . The books are available for sale at the Publication Branch of the Government Press, Mount Road, Madras."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know whether these books can be published in cheaper editions? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" We have not yet published any new editions. Old editions of Bharathi's works are still in stock and are not exhausted."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Will the Government come forward to publish cheaper editions of his works and also reduce the price of old editions so that all people may go in for his books? "

AN HON. MEMBER :—" Perhaps they are unpopular."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The interjection is not correct. We have taken over a large number of books and have made arrangements for their sale. We are considering the question of publishing cheaper editions."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" May I know whether the writings of of Bharathi have been translated into various languages including Telugu and if so, may I ask whether some of these books will be prescribed for study in high schools? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" We are altogether on a different question now."

Lands for house-sites to Harijans in Umbalacheri village, Tiruthuraipundi taluk.

* 28 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN (on behalf of Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether lands for house-sites were allotted to Harijans in Umbalacheri village, Tiruthuraipundi taluk, Tanjore district, during the last three years;

(b) if so, when this was allotted and at what stage it is now; and

(c) if there is any delay, the reason for it?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) No, Sir.

" (b) Does not arise.

" (c) After the special staff for providing house-sites to the Harijans and agricultural labourers in Tanjore district was appointed, this village was taken up for settling the Harijans.

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The Government approved the acquisition proposals for providing house-sites to 52 Harijan families under the urgency provisions of the Land Acquisition Act in June 1951 and steps are being taken by the Collector to push through the acquisition proceedings."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" To provide 52 Harijans with house-sites, the Government have to appoint special staff. May I know, at this rate, how long the Government will take to provide house-sites for all the Harijans in Tanjore? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I would request the hon. Member to understand the question he puts. The special staff has been appointed not for acquiring house-sites in this particular village alone. The staff is for the whole district of Tanjore."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" The Hon. the Minister was pleased to say that the special staff was for the whole district. May I know how many house-sites have been allotted to the Harijans ever since the special staff was appointed? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Nearly 7,000 house-sites have been acquired in Tanjore and so far as the whole State is concerned, we have acquired not less than 1,50,000 house-sites."

Agricultural exhibitions in Rayalaseema districts.

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

(a) the number of agricultural exhibitions and fairs held by the Agricultural Department during the last three financial years in the districts of Rayalaseema;

(b) the cost of each exhibition; and

(c) the number of persons that attended and of cattle exhibited?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) to (c) A statement ^a is placed on the table of the House."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" Sir, it is seen from the statement placed on the table of the House that the Agricultural Department spent only Rs. 335 for the past five years. May I know what sort of exhibition could have been got up with this small amount? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Public contributions may have been raised for this purpose."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" May I know, Sir, in raising public subscriptions, who were authorised to collect these contributions, whether non-officials or officials or anybody connected with the Agricultural Department? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Probably they must have constituted committees for each place, Sir."

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

II.—PRESENTATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1951-52.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—Sir, I present the first Supplementary Statement of Demands for Grants for further expenditure in the year 1951-52 and detailed estimates thereof. Copies of the Statement of Demands and estimates have been laid on the table of the House.

“As explained in the Introductory Memorandum to the Statement, the Demands relate to new service schemes already sanctioned or proposed to be sanctioned by the Government in this year and cover decisions taken up to the end of July last.

“I invite the special attention of the hon. Members to the abstract of the Detailed Estimates which is given on page 2 of the Supplementary Statement. The Supplementary Estimates now presented cover 47 new schemes, spread over 15 Demands. The estimated ultimate cost of all the schemes is about Rs. 25 lakhs recurring and Rs. 520 lakhs non-recurring. About 90 per cent of the expenditure is on Capital Account. More than one half of the capital expenditure relates to Irrigation schemes sanctioned in pursuance of the Grow More Food campaign. The estimated cost on these in the current year is about Rs. 29 lakhs only, which will count against the lump sum provision of Rs. 70 lakhs already made for the purpose in the Budget for the current year. The electricity schemes come next with an estimated ultimate cost of Rs. 206 lakhs. There are 11 electricity schemes, including 9 schemes for the extension of supply of electricity for agricultural and domestic purposes in rural areas (Rs. 161 lakhs), 3 schemes for the acquisition of company electrical undertakings (Rs. 18 lakhs), and 1 scheme for the purchase of additional transformers (Rs. 5 lakhs). There is also a proposal for an ex gratia payment of about Rs. 19 lakhs in all, to the 36 local authority licensees whose undertakings have been taken over by the Government. The estimated cost on account of all these electricity schemes in this year is about Rs. 78 lakhs, of which a sum of Rs. 18 lakhs is covered by the lumpsum provision already made in the Budget. Under Capital outlay on Civil Works, the Demand is made for the provision of additional accommodation for the Members of the new Legislature in the hostel in the Government House Estate (Rs. 6 lakhs) and for the construction of maternity block in the new Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli (Rs. 4½ lakhs).

“Turning to the Revenue Account, the estimated cost of all the new schemes is only Rs. 25 lakhs recurring and Rs. 40 lakhs non-recurring, and the total estimated cost in this year is only about Rs. 46 lakhs. The main items are—the cost of staff and officers entrusted with the work of control and supervision over the administration of panchayats, which have become the Government's liability from this year under the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950 (Rs. 15 lakhs), the purchase of 12 power drills

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complete with tools and other equipments for use in this State for putting down bore wells and for tapping underground water to help the Grow More Food Campaign (over Rs. 13 lakhs) reorganization of the Government Ceramic Factory, Gudur (Rs. 6 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 3 lakhs recurring), and opening of a new centre in the Koilkuntla area in the Kurnool district for producing Khadi, with a view to alleviate the distress caused by unemployment among the handloom weavers (gross cost Rs. 3 lakhs per annum which will be more than covered by the expected sales of Khadi). The other noteworthy schemes are—(a) the proposals for upgrading certain departments in the Government Medical Institutions at Madras with a view to make them serve as All-India centres for post-graduate training and research (Rs. 6 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 1 lakh recurring per annum, to be shared between the Government and the Government of India), (b) assistance to the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society towards the installation and working of plans for sizing, calendering, dyeing and printing of handloom cloth (cost to this Government about Rs. 1.40 lakhs) and (c) contribution to the Government of India towards the scheme for the technical and vocational training of adult civilians (Rs. 5 lakhs).

It will be seen that the expenditure expected to be incurred during this year on all the new schemes is relatively small (Rs. 46 lakhs in Revenue Account and Rs. 115 lakhs in the Capital Account) and that most of this expenditure will be covered by the lumpsum provision already made in the Budget for specified purposes (e.g., grow more food, irrigation schemes and acquisition of electrical undertakings). It may also be possible to meet part of the extra expenditure from savings that might accrue under the respective Grants. Hence only token sums are now included in the Supplementary Statement under all the Grants. As explained in the Introductory Memorandum, advances from the Madras Contingency Fund have been sanctioned for some of the new service schemes as were in urgent need of funds pending authorization by the Legislature, and these are indicated in the detailed notes relating to the schemes concerned.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The dates on which this will be taken up for discussion will be announced to hon. Members afterwards.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Not in this sitting, Sir.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Of course it may not be taken up in this sitting. The programme will be communicated to hon. Members afterwards.”

III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS CO-OPERATIVE LAND MORTGAGE BANKS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Madras Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks (Amendment) Bill, 1951 (L.A.

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Bill No. 9 of 1951). Sir, when the Bill was taken up for consideration on 3rd April 1951 it was suggested by some hon. Members that the Bill required more detailed examination, and closer scrutiny by a Select Committee of this House. Hence we agreed to send the Bill to the Select Committee. The Select Committee appointed to consider this Bill met twice, on the 10th May and 4th June 1951. A copy of the proceedings of the Select Committee has been circulated to hon. Members. This is a little complicated Bill, and hon. Members Sri Viswanatham and Sri Gopalaswami and others pointed out that the Bill prejudicially affected the liability of a joint Hindu family and especially the rights of minors under the Hindu Law. The Select Committee considered all these aspects and also invited the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the President of the Land Mortgage Bank and examined them also. As the Select Committee considered that the Bill contained provisions which really affected certain interests, the Committee has recommended to the House the withdrawal of the Bill. So I request the House to accept the recommendation of the Select Committee that the Bill need not be proceeded with."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I hope the House has no objection to acquiesce in the recommendation of the Select Committee that the Bill should not be further proceeded with."

The House acquiesced in the dropping of the Bill.

(2) THE MADRAS BUILDINGS (LEASE AND RENT CONTROL) SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL, 1951.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I beg leave to introduce the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Second Amendment Bill* 1951 and move—

'That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.'

"Sir, this is a non-controversial Bill. We only ask for the extension of the life of the Act for two more years from 1st October 1951 to 30th September 1953. We are also taking advantage of the occasion to clarify certain ambiguities we noticed in one or two matters. Therefore this is a very non-controversial matter and the Bill may be allowed to be passed."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Motion moved—

'That the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Second Amendment Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'"

JANAB MOHAMED RAFEEUDDIN AHMED ANSARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while I support the motion of the Hon. Minister for consideration of this Bill I would have very much liked this Bill to be referred to a Select Committee for incorporating certain very necessary amendments. I know that the present Bill seeks to extend the life of the existing Act by another two years and

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certain formal amendments are also to be made. What I say is that this opportunity could have been taken by Government at least for incorporating certain very necessary provisions which are not found in the original Act.

"I shall give a few examples, Sir. Now section 10 of the Act says that an application shall be summarily rejected which has already been finally decided under section 7, sub-sections (2) and (3) of the Act. Now, section 7 of the Act deals with application by landlords for eviction of the tenants on various grounds, on grounds of arrears of rent or on the ground that the landlords themselves want the buildings for their own occupation, etc. But there is no provision in the present Act for the summary rejection of application which has been finally decided under section 4 of the Act. This section deals with the fixation of fair rent. There is no provision in the present Act whereby when once an application for fixation of fair rent has been finally decided another application on the same grounds could be summarily rejected. Nothing prevents the tenant from again bringing forward another application under section 4, for fixing fair rent. This is a technical lacuna in this Act which has to be remedied and which has not been remedied either in the Act of 1951 or in the present Bill. Because of this lacuna what happens is this. I am not speaking on hypothetical grounds but I am speaking from actual experience of cases which have come up before courts of law. I do not want to give more details in regard to them because some of them are hands of the landlords by filing application after application for fixation of fair rent. I may say that this difficulty has been felt as a real difficulty, that tenants have made use of this lacuna in the original Act to prolong the litigation to avoid eviction at the hands of the landlords by filing application after application for fixation of fair rent. For instance, an application is filed before the Rent Controller. He fixes a fair rent. If the tenant is aggrieved by it he goes up to the appellate authority. It is decided there and fair rent is fixed. But if again the tenant files a petition before the Rent Controller for the fixation of fair rent there is nothing in the present Act to prevent him from filing such an application under section 4. This is what happens. The landlord files an application for ejection of the tenant on the ground that he is in arrears of rent. Now as a counterblast the tenant files an application under section 4 for fixation of fair rent and takes up a defence that until his application for fixation of fair rent is finally decided the other application should not be decided because if the fair rent were calculated according to him, there would be sufficient money left in the hands of the landlord himself to cover all the arrears. Though the High Court has decided that that defence should not be taken, still applications are filed on similar grounds and there is no provision in the existing Act for summarily rejecting such applications. So, applications for ejection on grounds of arrears of rent are pending for a long time. Sir, I know of a case in which an application was filed for ejection of the tenant on grounds of arrears of rent in 1947 and as a

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1-30 counterblast the tenant also filed an application for fixation of
a.m. fair rent and these have not been finally disposed of till to-day. There is no provision in the present Act by which the Rent Controller could summarily reject applications previously dealt with under section 4. The present section 10 deals with ejectments under section 7 (2) and (3). But there is no provision at present whereby the application for fixation of fair rent when finally decided operates as *res judicata* and prevents further applications being filed under the same section. That is a very important provision which has to be incorporated. Last time I drew the attention of the then Hon. Minister in charge of the amending Bill to incorporate that provision. Unfortunately I could not give notice of an amendment. Therefore, the Hon. Minister was good enough to say that this would be considered later. When this amending Bill has now been brought forward, I wish the opportunity should have been utilized for incorporating that provision.

"Then, Sir, in regard to section 7 of the existing Act, I pointed out on the last occasion a very material lacuna, in that a landlord could ask for possession of his building under the various grounds enumerated therein, but there is no provision whereby, if he wants to effect any alterations or improvements or change the entire building into a pucca building, he can ask for possession of the building. It is only when the tenant wants that repairs should be done, that the landlord can apply to the Rent Controller to allow him to effect repairs. But, if the landlord himself seeks to carry out the repairs, he cannot go to the Rent Controller. As you know, Sir. We should encourage landlords to improve and expand their existing houses and for that the landlord has no means under the existing Act by which he can take possession of the building and carry out the necessary repairs and improvements. Therefore, Sir, I submit that section 7 requires some amendment to enable the landlord to take possession of the building in order to carry out repairs and improvements. Consequential to this, there are certain other aspects also which have to be considered and necessary amendments made. For instance, in regard to fixation of fair rent, the alterations, additions or improvements that are made subsequent to the commencement of the tenancy, should also be taken into consideration for fixing fair rent. In the existing Act, there is no such provision for alterations, additions or improvements being taken into consideration for purposes of fixing fair rent.

"Then, Sir, there is another point which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government. Under section 7 (3) (iii), a landlord is entitled to ask for possession of a building 'in case it is a non-residential building, if the landlord is not occupying for purposes of a business which he is carrying on, a non-residential building in the city, town or village concerned which is his own or to the possession of which he is entitled whether under this

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Act or otherwise, . . . Now, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the difference between section 7 (3) (i) that deals with residential buildings and section 7 (3) (a) (iii) that deals with non-residential buildings. Sub-section (3) (a) (i) says that a landlord can apply to the Controller for possession, 'in case it is a residential building, if the landlord requires it for his own occupation and if he is not occupying a residential building of his own in the city, town or village concerned'. But in regard to a non-residential building he must also not occupy a building to which he is entitled to possession. I fail to see why such a difference should be made between residential and non-residential buildings. After all the necessity is the same. If a landlord owns a house and if he wants to occupy it himself and if he is not occupying a residential building of his own, then he is entitled to ask for possession of the building under section 7 (3) (a) (i). Even in the case of non-residential buildings also, a landlord should be entitled to ask for possession under the same circumstances. I submit, Sir, that this is a great hardship to the landlord and there is no reason why a difference should be made between a residential building and a non-residential building.

"Then, Sir, there is another rather doubtful phrase in the same section 7 (3) (a) (iii), viz. . . . 'if the landlord is not occupying for purposes of a business which he is carrying on'. The wording of the phrase, I submit, Sir, is very ambiguous. Suppose a landlord is carrying on two distinct types of business, e.g., in meat and in vegetables. Under the existing Act, if he is in possession of a non-residential building whether he is carrying on only one business or not, he is not entitled to another non-residential building. That is the difficulty. Therefore, Sir, it should be provided that, if he wants a non-residential building of his own for carrying on a particular business, and he is not carrying on that particular business in any other non-residential building of his own, he should be entitled to have it.

"Then, Sir, to clause 7, sub-clause (2) in the amending Bill, there is a proviso giving discretion to the Rent Controller to give 15 days' time to a tenant if he comes to the conclusion that the tenant has not committed wilful default in payment of rent. But, under the new clause 7-A (1) a tenant is not entitled to contest an application unless he deposits all the arrears of rent due on that date with the Controller. Sir, these two provisions are in a way confusing and contradictory to one another. On the one hand, if the Controller comes to the conclusion that the tenant has not committed wilful default in payment of rent, he can give 15 days' time to the tenant and postpone the order of ejectment. On the other hand, the new clause 7-A (1) says that a tenant cannot even contest or defend his application unless he deposits the entire arrears of rent with the Controller. Sir, the contradiction is apparent. Suppose a tenant says that he is not in arrears and the landlord says that the tenant is in arrears. At what stage

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is this question to be decided? If the Rent Controller thinks that the tenant is in arrears, the tenant will immediately deposit the amount with the Controller, and, under the proviso to clause 7, sub-clause (2), the tenant can be given 15 days' time to pay the arrears. Therefore, Sir, it should be provided that new clause 7-A does not apply to applications for ejectment on the ground of arrears of rent or it must be definitely made to include all such applications also. So, the language of the clause should be clearer so as to avoid all this confusion.

"Therefore, Sir, I suggest to the Hon. Minister that this amending Bill may be referred to a Select Committee. After all it does not take a very long time, and all the above points can be gone into the Select Committee and provisions made, if necessary, incorporating the above suggestions so that landlords or tenants may not have any difficulty in a court of law."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion of the Hon. Minister. The need for this Bill is apparent. Since the housing problem has not eased in this city and in the State in general, it is necessary that the existing Act should continue for another couple of years. I know, that there are some who are against control in all its forms and also against this Rent Control Act. But, it must be remembered that it is the duty of the Government to see that vested interests do not exploit the present conditions of scarcity to the detriment of the general public. This Bill is perfectly in accord and in consonance with the Constitution of India, wherein it is provided that the State can undertake such legislation in order to promote the well-being of the general public. This Bill is in the interests of the generality of the people though it may not be palatable to a few who are owners of property. I, therefore, support the measure.

"The hon. Member Mr. Ansari has proposed that this Bill may be referred to a Select Committee."

MR. SPEAKER:—"No, the hon. Member did not move any motion. He has only suggested to the Government that the Bill may be referred to a Select Committee."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"I am not in agreement with his suggestion, for, as you would remember, this Bill has already emerged from two Select Committees, the second of which undid many useful suggestions that were made by the first Committee. After going through two Select Committees, this Bill was passed only in April last. Hence it is unnecessary to refer it to another Select Committee. It is true that there are certain lacunae in the existing measure. But the remedy for that can be found by bringing forward another amending Bill in the next session or so. I do not, therefore, support Mr. Ansari's recommendation that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

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"While supporting the Government in regard to this Bill, I wish to state that the Government are to a large extent responsible for the difficult housing conditions that are prevalent in this State at present. I would request the Hon. Finance Minister and other Ministers to read the report of the United Nations Expert Committee on housing conditions in this State wherein it has been pointed out that conditions in this State in regard to housing are appalling."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Madras State!"

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Yes, in the State of Madras. I believe this Committee visited Bombay, Madras and other States and thereafter presented their report. They have observed that it is the duty of the Government to tackle this problem, and I entirely agree with them. This Committee has mentioned that one of the factors that stand in the way of increasing housing accommodation is the high price of land. Hence it has suggested that Government should control land values. The Madras Provincial Housing Committee which devoted much of its time and attention to tackling the housing problem made the self-same suggestion that has now been made by the United Nations Expert Committee. It is time that the Government examined the above suggestion as also other suggestions made by the above-mentioned two Committees. The Madras Provincial Housing Committee had also suggested to this Government to ask the Central Government to allot a substantial amount for the construction of houses just as the Bombay Government had done. I understand that the latter asked the Central Government to provide them with two crores of rupees for their housing programme."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"That is with regard to housing industrial labour."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"The Government of Bombay have a very comprehensive scheme in regard to solving their housing problem. I am not quite sure whether the full amount they asked for has been allotted to them or not, but the fact remains that the Bombay Government, unlike the Government of this State, has been quite alert and active in this matter. When we inquire as to what this Government have done in the past, the Hon. Finance Minister gloats over his planning schemes, which may go the way of the Post-War Reconstruction Schemes, which have all been scrapped. I am afraid that likewise many of the recommendations of the Planning Commission will also vanish into thin air and prove to be a mere delusion. It is the duty of the Government not merely to hold out promises but to tackle this problem in right earnest and see that the housing conditions particularly of the poor are improved in this City and in the rest of the State without further delay. With these words, I have great pleasure in supporting the Bill."

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* SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ Sir, the original Act which we passed at the last sitting of the Legislature after a very interesting discussion must be fresh in the minds of the hon. Members of this House and the present Bill is only intended to extend the life of the Act by another two years, i.e., till the 30th September 1953. This Bill is intended for the benefit of the many hundreds of thousands of tenants throughout the State and it is not restricted to Madras City only. Therefore, I would urge on the Government that they should make this Act available in a very consolidated form to the general public. I am saying this because copies of this Act are not available in the Government Press, and therefore, the public are forced to buy them from certain private publishers. In this connexion, I would request the Government to publish the Act with all the amendments under the appropriate sections so that the poor tenant paying Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 as rent can know the latest amendments to the Act.

“ Sir, my second point is, why should the Government restrict the life of this Act to two years. Speaking for myself, I do not see any possibility of the housing problem being eased in the next five or ten years, especially when I see the Government moving at a slow pace in this matter. You are unnecessarily holding out false hopes to the landlords that they can have their own way after two years when, they may think, this Act will expire. Even landlords, who want to build new houses, are handicapped by the short supply of building materials. Therefore, I would request the Government to extend the life of the Act up to five years. By that time, we can see whether this Act is to be repealed *in toto* or only amendments of a minor nature are necessary. This can be done either on a motion by the Government or by a private member. Therefore, I do not see why the Government should attach sanctity to the period of two years.

“ Sir, one other difficulty is created in this Bill. In section 7-A, the Rent Controller is given powers to determine whether the default in payment of rent was wilful or not. A veritable Pandora's box is implied in the term 'wilful default'. I am sure, Rent Controllers in different places will interpret the word 'wilful' in different ways. This term 'wilful default' is not defined. It is so vague that what may appear to be a 'reasonable default' in the mind of one Rent Controller may not appear to be a 'reasonable default' in the case of another Rent Controller. I think, a lot of complexity will be introduced in defining the term 'wilful default'. This is one thing against which I want to warn the Government.

“ Sir, I now come to the third point. The Government have powers to exempt or release certain buildings from the scope of this Act. I would urge upon the Government to be more liberal in this matter of exempting or releasing buildings. I know several cases where schemes for rebuilding three or four storeyed-houses are not put into execution because a tenant occupying a relatively

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small portion of the building refuses to get out of the building. This is unfair to the landlord who wants to reconstruct his house. If you want that that tenant should be given preference after the building has been constructed, you can do so by making it a condition for exempting this building from the scope of this Act. This will enable a large number of landlords to reconstruct their houses. I know a landlord in the Vepery Road (Madras) who has experienced such difficulties. He is a merchant dealing in hides and skins. He wants to reconstruct his house but he is not able to do so because a tenant, who is a cycle dealer, refuses to vacate his portion. The Act helps him in this respect. He cannot be evicted. So, in such cases, Government should be more liberal.

“ Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Ansari suggested that this Bill may be referred to a Select Committee. The original Act came out of the Select Committee only in April this year and passed by this House at its last sitting. At that time, Government were pleased to accept some of our amendments and rejected some of them. So, a re-committal of this Bill to a Select Committee is not called for. I, therefore, oppose the suggestion made by my hon. Friend Mr. Ansari and support the passing of the amending Bill.”

SRI B. S. MURTHY:—“ Mr. Speaker, while supporting the motion, I would like to make a few remarks. It looks as if we are passing through an age of controls and controls have proved to be futile. Not only that. Controls have brought so many difficulties unheard of. Therefore, there is a general feeling in the minds of the people that controls, if not effectively applied, are a curse. That thing could be said regarding this rent control as well. No doubt, in 1946 the Provincial Housing Committee made certain recommendations.

“ As a matter of fact, the Act of 1949 was the direct result of this Provincial Housing Committee. But, Sir, the Act of 1949 was very defective. Therefore it had to undergo some alterations in 1951. Even to-day, Sir, it is very defective. It is defective in the sense that the very purpose of the Rent Control Act, namely, of easing the situation in the State of Madras as far as housing conditions are concerned, has not been fulfilled. No doubt, Sir, we have appointed a number of Judges to go into the cases. We have an officer whose duty is to see whether accommodation is available or not. I can only say that the Government are tinkering with the problem. The rack-renting by the landlords is going on.

“ Madras and other Cities are being over-crowded. The rural areas are getting day by day thinner. Lakhs and lakhs of people are flocking to the Cities to eke out their living. No amount of rent control would be able to meet the situation arising out of this migration of the people from the villages to the cities. The Madras City is supposed to be a city of gardens. But to-day the Madras City can be aptly called a 'City of Cheris'. Thatched

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huts are to be found in every part of the City. These poor people who dwell in the huts and the labouring classes were, as the hon. Member Sri V. I. Munuswami Pillay had remarked, the original inhabitants of the City of Madras. But, Sir, the new-comers are now living in palatial buildings. This thing should not be allowed to continue for long (hear, hear). The Minister says "hear, hear". I am glad that he has heard it. It is my wish that the Minister should take this to his heart and translate it into action. A plan to relieve the conditions that are now prevailing in the City is necessary for putting a stop to the springing up of huts in different corners of the City, thus spoiling its beauty.

Now, Sir, I want to speak a word about the landlords. Landlords have become a set of 'Leeches' (hear, hear). I am sorry to say that it is a fact. I am one who calls a 'spade' a 'spade' and not otherwise. Sir, nowadays the landlords do not attend to repairs. They do not care for the convenience of the tenants. My hon. Friend Mr. Ansari has shown a soft corner for the landlord. Well, Sir, I do whole-heartedly sympathize with the landlord. But, Sir, on account of receiving rents they should not become capitalists. The capitalists often try to exploit other people. If he tries to take advantage of the weakness of the poor and profits at their expense, I say, Sir, you must teach a lesson to the person whoever he may be. They do not attend to repairs of the houses. They do not even give a receipt for the amount they receive from their tenants. I know a case where five thousand rupees had been passed on to the landlord and that landlord refused to pass a receipt. When the matter has been taken to the Government and the Chief Secretary has been apprised of this, the Chief Secretary has not even a word of explanation to offer. There is, as a matter of fact, an enactment that any sum exceeding Rs. 20 (rupees twenty) should be taken only with a stamped receipt. Here is a case where five thousand rupees have been passed from the tenant to the landlord without a receipt. The Government know it. They do not propose to take any action against the landlord.

"The landlords insist that the tenants must vacate. If the landlord or the landlady does not comply with the provisions of the Act, then the Government must take courage in their hands and see that they stand as a guarantee to the tenants.

Now, Sir, there is the accommodation control in the City of Madras. But what is the accommodation that you offer to the pavement dwellers? During the rainy seasons, many of the huts are washed away. Where can the poor children and babies of one, two or three months sleep? Is it on the pavements? You call your Government a National Government, a Congress Government and a Popular Government.

"I say, Sir, these children of two and three years of age who dwell on the pavements are the citizens of to-morrow and they are our national wealth. If you are so unmindful, so careless, about

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these things what can they do? Why do you bring in control then? The essential need is to provide huts for these poor people. If it is not done, the 'rent control' is only a mere name.

"One more point, Sir. In the City of Madras, there is the Accommodation Officer. Suppose we want a house. We apply to the Accommodation Officer. He will ask us whether we are Government servants. If the applicant is not a Government servant he cannot expect any help in the matter of securing a house for his occupation. I do not say that Government servants should not be given that facility. If the Accommodation Officer is not able to give any aid to non-Government servants, at least he must become a Liaison Officer. He must be a mediator. He must be one who is able to bring round these two people and see that houses are allotted to them. That sort of work must be allotted to the Accommodation Officer. Simply saying 'inasmuch as you are not a Government servant, you cannot get a house' will not do. As a matter of fact Government servants constitute only about 5 to 10 per cent of the population. If accommodation is to be secured only for this minority, what about the rest of the population? I want Sir, certain changes to be made in the present Act of 1951. We need not waste our time. Appoint a Select Committee and then ask for public opinion. In the meantime one or two years may elapse. As the Act continues, Government can bring forward certain amendments as and when they feel that they are necessary and see that the Act is made useful for all sorts of people. Thank you, Sir."

* SRI K. BHASHYAM :—"Sir, the Bill is a very short one and proposes in the first instance to prolong the life of the Buildings Act by two years more. First and foremost what strikes me as strange is, why the Government should not have thought of this extension even at the time when we had the main Bill in April last. They could have said then that this Bill would be extended by two years more and the amendment might have been carried out or at least proposed at the time the main amending Bill was before this House.

"Sir, a suggestion has been made on the floor of the House by my Friend Sri Ramaswami Mudaliyar that as a matter of fact the extension should not be for two years more or for a period of five years. I say, Sir, it is not proper. This is not a permanent Act on the Statute Book. What is necessary is that the Government must be quickened to take necessary action for solving housing problem and therefore it is necessary that every two years the Government must come before the House and get the sanction for extension of the Act. It is by that the Government's conscience might be pricked and there might be opportunity for Members of the House to tell the Government what they have done, or not done or what they omitted to do. Therefore, Sir, I approve of this thing, i.e., that the life of this Act must be extended for only two more years in the first instance.

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"Next, Sir, I come to the amendments proposed. I am not able to understand the real significance of the amendments proposed. Firstly there is the retrospective operation clause. Clause 1 (2) says that the amendments made by sections 3, 4 and 5 of this Act shall be deemed to have taken effect from the commencement of the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Amendment Act, 1951.

"What happens to section 7-A of the Act now? If a person has been sued for eviction and if he had not paid the amount of rent, it is necessary to apply section 7-A of the Act, or whatever that may be. If the tenant has not paid the amount, his appeal or petition is likely to be dismissed. Due to the amendment proposed to section 7-A (1), i.e., the deletion of the words 'at the rate at which it was last paid or agreed to be paid,' a sort of disability is imposed on the tenant, if he has complied with the provisions of the Act as they were in force before. Therefore, Sir, it is much better to leave out this retrospective clause, because it will affect the rights and jurisdiction of the courts. It will be much better for the Legislature not to do anything that will be retrospective. As a matter of fact I do not know how even this retrospective clause can be given effect to because the principle is not countenanced by the Constitution. I do not propose to argue it because there are other places where it can more properly be argued.

"Coming to clause 4 of the Bill, Sir, I find that the framers of the amendment think that there is a difference between 'any rent in excess of such fair rent' and 'anything in excess of such fair rent'. I am not able to understand the difference between the two phrases. Anything that a person gets by way of return for the accommodation that has been let, is certainly rent and I do not know why there should be a difference suggested between the two.

"In respect of the amendment proposed under clause 4 of the Bill the question of 'wilful default' comes. This has been objected to by the previous speaker or the speaker before him. I can only say that the question of 'wilful default' is absolutely necessary. It is a specific term well-known in law. There is nothing wrong in putting that term.

"As has been pointed out by a previous speaker, perhaps there may be cases where the payment might have been delayed due to causes entirely extraneous. Perhaps it might have been a Bank holiday or Public holiday and the tenant might not have known of it. It could also have been due to the tenant not knowing the correct postal address of the landlord. In all these cases, the delay in payment cannot at all be wilful. Some reasonable concession ought to be given to the tenants in these cases.

"So I feel Sir, it is unnecessary to quarrel over the insertion of the words 'wilful default'. As explained above, I entirely approve of the insertion of the word.

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Section 7-A could be applied only to cases where the proviso to section 7 (2) could be applied. So far as the wording of section 7-A is concerned, I only wish that it could have been a little more clearly worded.

"In all cases where a man is sought to be evicted on the ground of non-payment of rent the proviso to section 7 (2) is applied and not section 7-A. I would like to point out that in cases where a person has not paid the rent and the landlord is suing for his eviction on the ground of non-payment of rent and the court has also come to the conclusion that the proper rent has not been paid, the man should not be allowed to escape eviction on the ground of the default for subsequent months. Again, what has to be done during the period of appeal or any other proceedings that may be taking place? Every man has to pay the rent before he gets any relief from the court. If, as a matter of fact, there is such a thing as the rate of rent which was last paid or a fair rent which has been fixed by the court, there is no reason why he should not continue to pay this rent, if he wants to appeal. Therefore, Sir, section 7-A which is sought to be amended has really to be looked into further before we can pass the amendment as it is before the House."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM — "Sir, I support the suggestion made by the hon. Member Mr. Ansari that this Bill may be taken up by the Select Committee. But, Sir, you will say that he has not given an amendment to that effect. I know there were instances in this House, in the history of legislation, that even though technical amendments have not been given notice of, if the Government were pleased or if the Government were convinced that there is a need as expressed in this House, the Government have agreed to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. Sir, speaker after speaker have spoken on this and the need for further amendments and the imperative reason why this Bill should go to a Select Committee. Hon. Member Mr. Ansari has explained to this House how there is need for further amendments. In a very innocent looking way the Leader of the House has said 'No' and that he has simply come forward to ask for an extension, a further lease for an old Act. No, Sir, that is not true. A very eminent lawyer, Mr. Bhashyam, has explained that not only has the Leader of the House come forward asking for a further lease for an old Act but has moved some innocent looking amendments and with his vast experience as a legal luminary has explained that these amendments will create some confusion. I know, Sir, that this House and the Honourable the Leader of the House are not in a mood to go into the details of the Bill. I will not therefore waste the time of the House in explaining the need for referring the Bill to a Select Committee. As is usual with this Government they say there is no time and the Bill will serve no purpose if delayed till the 30th of September. There are instances and instances where Bills were referred to Select Committees and

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the report came back in 12 hours, in one day, in two days. I can quote chapter and verse to show that where this Government were convinced they have said 'We are asking for a Select Committee and we will report tomorrow.' I have to say that there is time till 30th September and if the Government see reason they can ask that this Bill may be referred to a Select Committee and report called for within two or three days. After all, the Leader of the House has said that we are likely to meet in September. Nothing is going to be lost. Instead of creating confusion, as explained by the hon. Member Mr. Bhasyam, it will be very convenient not only to revise the present amendments proposed by the Leader of the House but also to improve them and then they may pass the Bill into an Act before it lapses. Sir, the hon. Member Mr. Murthy and others have aired some of their views and it is but proper that instead of leaving it to the Government we are given an opportunity to suggest certain things. The Land Revenue Reforms Committee seem to think that there should be a limit only on holding acres of land, a hundred acres, two hundred acres or three hundred acres. But what about a limit on the owning of a number of buildings in towns and cities? We have rationing and controlling of commodities. What about controlling housing space? I know of a family having no children occupying palatial buildings as big as half of the Secretariat. Government do not seem to think of or they are incapable of appreciating such vast reforms. There should be not only house-rent control but there should also be control on owning a number of houses. There should be control in occupying housing space and therefore, Sir, it is but proper, if only this Government has got the courage to face such vast reforms, the Government can send it to a Select Committee and within the time available they can see that not only confusion is not created but some valuable suggestions are made by the Select Committee."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, we have a very meandering discussion on this Bill. I think, Sir, the Bill ought to have been accepted straightaway for the simple reason that it only asks that the life of the Act passed by this House should be extended by another two years. We have given power already to Government and they come forward with a Bill in order to test whether general opinion in this House is in favour of such control as the Rent Control Act envisages. I think, Sir, I should draw here a distinction as to when the Select Committee should be demanded and as to how these Committees come to operate. The distinction is this, Sir, Members are always free to make suggestions and send their suggestions in writing whether the Assembly is in session or not. Government also on their own motion can review the position from time to time, as they have done in respect of this Act. The Act was once revised. It came in the form of a Bill. There was a Select Committee on the Bill and if it has left some confusion as one member has pointed out, that member and myself and the Government were responsible

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for the continuance of that confusion. There may or may not be that but there is a regular procedure and a method by which this confusion may be ended—it cannot always be one-sided presentation. My friends from the other side made a series of demands on behalf of landlords. Another friend came in with a general observation that landlords are something like leeches. I could retaliate a hundredfold. It may be that landlords are leeches; it may be that tenants are toads. It may be anything else but the fact remains that landlords are good people, that landlords are not always rich and there are very poor landlords as against very rich tenants. We have unfortunately fallen into a pharseology of a sort into which Congressmen particularly are easily tempted. They want to use the terminology 'Capitalists', 'Exploiting class', etc. We want to avoid all these and yet the very temptation into which we have fallen shows that we seize the bit easily and run away with the bit in our mouth. It is very unfortunate. In fact, this problem of housing is not so easy. It cannot be solved as my friend here says in five or six years. It is a continuing problem and in England every Ministry whether it was Labour or Conservative has been blamed on the housing problem. It is a continuing problem which requires continuous attention. It depends on the growing population trends, the shift from urban to rural areas or from rural areas to urban areas. It depends again on the standards of living which a nation develops. The space that you need is immediately raised by the standards you adopt. The amount of capital that may be invested has also reference to this housing problem. It is not therefore an easy thing to say that you can solve this problem in five or ten years. In fact, if such problems could be solved so easily no attention need be paid to them thereafter. But in a free functioning of democracy big problems like land and housing come constantly again and again for review before the Representatives in the Assemblies. These are problems that are always in the making or in the offing. That is how we should consider this question. I do not propose, Sir, to enter into a general discussion of all these but I must say this that when a Bill is brought up for a specific purpose the object should be to examine whether the policy underlying the Bill whose lifetime is sought to be extended is generally accepted by this House or not. Rent control is a good thing; a wise thing. Keep it on. It may be that at the end of two years we may have to bring in another Bill after visualising all the experiences that we get during the last three years. We have revised it once and we may have to revise it over again. But till then let us carry on the present experiment with goodwill given on all sides, on the side of the landlord, on the side of the tenant. I myself am not a tenant or landlord. I know there are good and bad landlords and there are good and bad tenants. This is a problem on which class distinctions should not be raised. There is no such thing as a landlord class. Let me point out to my friends the poor landlord may be equally helpless as, for instance, a rich tenant would make him feel helpless. It is possible the other

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way also. So, we must take the co-operation of the people in this matter. Whether in the problem of housing or in the general consideration of the administration of controls it is on the amount of goodwill that we propagate, in the City especially, that the solution of this problem depends. (Interruption by Sri R. V. Swaminathan.) Unlike the hon. Member Mr. Swaminathan, I feel for the common good of all classes of people. That is the difference between him and me. I look at problems absolutely impersonally without singling out reasons as to how they affect particular classes or a particular set of circumstances. I know for instance that Mr. Murthy spoke of a tenant who wanted a receipt for Rs. 5,000. What a rich man he must have been! Five thousand rupees for a house or even two houses, I would say, makes him absolutely give up his case. Mr. Murthy was asking for the construction of huts. He was saying in another breath that huts make the place ugly. The City of Madras is full of huts. Huts are very beautiful things if they can be kept in a sanitary condition. It all depends on the amount of attention you give to huts and mutiments in general. (Interruption by Sri R. V. Swaminathan.) I am not in a very big place. Mr. Swaminathan goes to Europe and sees palaces there and wants that conditions in India should conform to those conditions. I have lived in huts and I know how to live in huts. I have been spending my time more in huts than even in tolerable dwellings. I would say, not to speak of palaces, what we want is that the environment conditions must be all right. One of the important things in human life is that we spend much less number of hours in our houses than in the areas around the houses or in the roads and in the streets and it is these, Sir, that have to be made habitable. I do not want the pavement dwellers to multiply. If you abolish controls the pavement dwellers will multiply a hundred fold. Therefore, Sir, let us give this Government the power that they seek to extend the lifetime of this Act by two years. If there are any lacunae, things to be done either for the landlord or for the tenant, let us put forward constructive suggestions to the Government to examine and then they can leisurely examine these things and come forward with a Bill which can certainly go to a Select Committee and then receive a thrashing at that Committee stage."

12-30 p.m. JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, speaking on this Bill, I would submit that the Hon. Minister now in charge of this Bill would have done better if he had told us what exactly was the reason for fixing two years for extending the life of this Act. Why not three years, four or five years? What exactly is the data that he has for coming to the decision to extend the life of this Act only by two years? May I know, Sir, from him whether he has any data to communicate to this House as to what improvement has been made in the housing situation so far as the City and other municipalities are concerned; whether they have any data to tell us that they have constructed so many houses which have relieved, to a certain extent, the housing situation;

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and whether he has any data to tell us that, within two years, the housing problem would be solved for good and that sufficient number of houses would have been built by then making it unnecessary to have the life of this Act extended again? The hon. Gentleman Mr. Varadachari believes that this is a perennial problem and this is going to last for ever and therefore there should be no control. Does the Hon. Minister agree with him or does he think that the Government in the future will tackle this question of housing in such a manner as to see that within two years there will be such large number of houses built, not only in the City of Madras but also in the municipal areas, that he will not have to come here for further extending the period? Besides, Sir, I would like to submit that the Hon. Minister, not having had the experience of piloting this Bill in the earlier stages, may not be fully aware, unfortunately, of the difficulties that this Act has created and is likely to create. He merely has come forward with this Bill for extending the life of the Act. He does not seem to be concerned whether it will be useful or not. He does not stop there. He has also introduced certain amendments to which exception has been taken by hon. Members who have spoken before me. They are not as harmless, innocuous or innocent as they are supposed to be by the Mover of the Bill. Inasmuch as they are likely to affect the fundamentals of the Bill, it would be certainly better if this Bill were referred to a Select Committee. But my hon. Friend Mr. Mudaliyar thought that it was only yesterday that we were considering the Bill in the Select Committee and therefore it would be unnecessary to refer it to the Select Committee again. But he forgets that new amendments have been proposed which affect the very fundamentals of this Bill. I am not sure that the amendments that have been proposed are based on the experience acquired during the years that this Act had been in force. Of course, I know the previous Hon. Minister who was in charge of the old Bill, was of the opinion that this Act was primarily for the benefit of the tenants, though he did not lose sight of the interests of the landlords also. But, since the provisions of this Bill seek to amend certain fundamentals, it would be better if a small committee goes into the question thoroughly. Sir, the reference to a Select Committee, although it may be a mere formality, makes it possible for Members holding different opinions on certain questions to discuss the matter at leisure and at ease and arrive at some compromise amendments. Therefore I would emphasize the need for referring this Bill to a Select Committee.

" Then, Sir, I am afraid the Hon. Minister who has proposed this Bill has not taken into account the fact that this Bill has not helped the tenant in the way it should have helped. One case was mentioned by my hon. Friend Mr. Murthi. There are any number of cases where collusion takes place with the result that the tenant continues to suffer by having to pay higher rent or accumulated rent and large sums as advance. Therefore, I believe that this Bill does not make it possible for houseless people to

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acquire houses for themselves. I believe, Sir, that it would be very necessary that the question should be gone into thoroughly by the Government, if not by the Select Committee. Last time when the Bill was on the anvil, it was not possible for some of us to suggest increases in the rents so that the landlords need not unnecessarily resort to methods which are rather underhand, and undesirable. When we considered the Bill last time we put a premium on the underhand methods adopted by the landlords. In all these things it is very much better to take a realistic view of the conditions. The Government should not believe that they can do away with these things by mere legislation. I would therefore suggest, Sir, that the Government may be well advised to appoint a committee to examine the housing conditions in the city and elsewhere and to report to the Government with regard to the various amendments with which they have come forward now. It is no use the Government coming at a later stage and saying 'this is wanted and that is wanted'. I believe the problem is serious and it is necessary that the Government should appoint a Committee of experienced people to go into the question thoroughly and make a report on the basis of which they could come forward with amendments so that the Bill could be really useful not only to the tenant but also to the landlord."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, when the Government have given a date, namely, 30th September 1953, as the date of the expiry of this Act, I expect and the House expects, the Government have got a policy behind this, and that the Government would like to launch upon the housing programme to be finished in two years so that the necessity for further Rent Control Acts may be obviated. I hope it is so, and it is only in that spirit, Sir, I want to give one or two suggestions to the Government for their consideration. Now, in the course of two years, I would like that certain things should be done so that the housing situation could be eased considerably. Take, for example, the case of municipal areas. Now in each municipality, there are slums and the Government, if they only care, can launch upon a two-year programme for the clearance of the slums. And I will show them the source from where they can get the required sum. I do not want them to give grants for this purpose. I would like Government to give loans to the municipalities from the Reserve Fund. To-day the Reserve Fund is fetching to the Government only 2½ per cent or so. And the municipalities would be willing to pay that 2½ per cent to the Government. For that purpose, I would ask that in the case of 90 and odd municipalities, on an average at the rate of Rs. 10 lakhs each, a sum of Rs. 900 lakhs be given as loan. And the Government will not lose anything and will get their 2½ per cent, and meanwhile in a two-year programme every municipality will be able to clear the slums, and this proposition, I would ask the Hon. Finance Minister to consider. It is only a transference of the securities. The municipalities will be very willing to undertake this work and if slums are cleared, a very good deal of the housing problem in the cities will be solved.

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"There is another thing, Sir. In a place like Visakhapatnam, for example, the Government have constructed a few buildings under the building programme for the Hospital and Medical College. And the construction costs on paper about Rs. 22 or 25 lakhs. There has been a tender saving of six lakhs of rupees. There is also in the programme the ouster of about 300 scavengers from their lands in order to acquire that particular land for the expansion of the hospital. I would suggest that the tender saving of six lakhs of rupees may well be spent upon the housing of these scavengers who are being ousted. The Government have made a provision of 1½ lakhs of rupees for the acquisition of this land. This amount plus the tender savings of 6 lakhs of rupees might be utilized for the clearance and reconstruction of houses for these ousted scavengers. That means we will be giving 300 houses and if we spend about 12 lakhs of rupees like this, we will be housing about 480 scavengers and fishermen. That means a good deal of the slum area in the thickest part of that municipality will go. Likewise there would be schemes elsewhere in other municipalities. I would therefore earnestly suggest that the Government might distribute a part of their Reserve Fund for this purpose. The Government will not lose anything on this account because the municipalities will pay the rate of interest which they are getting now. Not only that. The municipalities will be able to return the capital in 30 or 40 easy instalments.

"Then, Sir, the Judicial department every year makes a saving of Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 lakhs. I suggest seriously for the consideration of the Government that houses for the Subordinate Judges may be built by the Government. A great part of the trouble in the cities arises because the Judicial and Executive officers need houses; a great deal of the Rent Controller's work consists in finding houses for these big officers, since they cannot be expected to live in all kinds of houses, and therefore good houses have to be selected for them. After all, we have only about 120 Deputy Collectors and about 60 or 70 Subordinate Judges to be housed, and if only the Government can set apart a sum of Rs. 125 lakhs, they would be able to house all of them. That will, I am sure, ease the situation in most of the municipalities. Rs. 125 lakhs is not much, because, as I said, the Judicial department already makes a saving of Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 lakhs every year and with a two-year programme, it must be possible for the Government—if they are only willing—to carry out this scheme.

"Then, Sir, in municipalities to which particularly this Act applies, the scarcity is felt on account of several Government offices being located in private houses. Take, for example, the Commercial Tax offices, the richest tax-gathering section of all the Government departments. Surely, the Government which collect about Rs. 16 to Rs. 18 crores a year in this department must be able to build their own houses for all these offices, if not for the officers. After all, houses for Commercial Tax officers in each district can be constructed with a lakh of rupees, and by

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spending Rs. 25 lakhs in all the districts, they can build houses for all these offices in all the districts. Surely, the Government must be able to set apart Rs. 25 lakhs for this purpose out of the annual revenue of Rs. 18 crores. I am making this suggestion only because I find the Government have fixed a time-limit in this Bill, of two years. I believe the Government want to abolish rent control in a period of two years; and so, in the course of two years, they must be able to do something in this matter.

"So far as I am concerned, I think that the clauses of the Act dealing with adjustment of rents between landlords and tenants must be a permanent feature of the legislation, but I am afraid that the provision dealing with the banning out, in effect, of landlords for ever from entry into their own houses is *ultra vires* of the Constitution altogether. I do hope that some decision will be coming from the Supreme Court soon upon this particular point. The provision really entrenches upon the right of a person to use his property to his best advantage. It is of course a different matter, and I do not want to go into that aspect of the matter now because after all the Act is to be in force only for another two years. I want the Government to give their earnest consideration to the suggestions I have made.

"Again, Sir, in section 6 (1) (a), the amendment seeks to put in the words 'anything in excess of such fair rent' in the place of the existing words 'any rent in excess of such fair rent'. The Government probably think that this language is more suitable, for, the sum that is due may not be rent. I want the Minister to see whether he cannot alter it into 'any amount' or 'any sum of money in excess of fair rent'. The word 'any thing' is not at all elegant there. Surely, it refers to a sum of money, and so we can as well say 'any amount' or 'any sum of money'.

"Then again, with regard to the amendment to the proviso under section 7 (2) (vi), the words 'notwithstanding anything contained in section 7-A' is sought to be inserted. Section 7-A deals with the deposit of rents. The Controller has got the right to decide the question of disputed rent also. I cannot therefore understand why, when he has got the power to settle any dispute, there should be an amendment saying 'notwithstanding anything contained in section 7-A'. This amendment is unnecessary and it is in ill-accord with the provision in section 7-A. Again, at the end of the proviso, there is an addition 'and on such payment or tender, the application shall be rejected'. Tender is not payment and it may be in or out of Court, and it may even be of an inadequate amount. Therefore, I suggest that the words 'or tender' may be deleted. Otherwise, it may lead to many difficulties, particularly in cases of disputed rent.

"In the last amendment also, i.e., to section 7-A (1), the present wording is 'at the rate at which it was last paid or agreed to be paid'. I do not know why the Government want to delete these words now. As Mr. Bhashyam pointed out in

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another connection, there might be a dispute, and if any sum was paid in the last instance, surely it might be considered as rent payable month after month until the proceedings themselves came to a close. Therefore, Sir, I think the original provision was well-conceived and these words need not be deleted now.

"In the result, I submit that while I agree that this Act may continue to exist for two more years, the Government should give further consideration to the detailed provisions included in this Bill. I ask the Government to give their very earnest attention to the suggestions I have made if their idea is that they should see to an improvement of the housing conditions in this State."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion made by the Hon. Finance Minister. I would have liked this Bill to go before a Select Committee with a view to invite its suggestions to make this Act pucca. This Bill seeks to extend the life of the Act by two more years. We all agree. Though control is not a thing which any one of us wants, taking into account what is actually happening in our State as regards housing accommodation, I feel there ought to be some control. But the Government should examine whether the poorer classes are benefited by this new legislation. I particularly welcome the introduction of the new clause 7 (2) (vi) —the amendment to the proviso. As it is, in places where the Controller has jurisdiction, the poorer classes for some reason or other have been asked to quit. I feel that the amended proviso will go a long way to help the poorer classes.

"Coming to section 7-A (1), in Madras City, as I have already explained in this House before and as we have been reminded to-day by my friend Mr. Murthi, there are very many hard cases. The Cox cheri which was the abode of the grass cutters for many, many years is one example. The Government purchased this plot for Rs. 5 lakhs with the object of giving more houses for the poorer people. But what has happened now? Those people have been driven away from the place and very big buildings are being put up there. I do not think that even one grass cutter has been allowed to occupy any of the new houses. It is really a strange thing. There is a section of people crying hoars to-day 'what have the present Congress Government done for food, and what have the Government done for housing accommodation'; and cases like this become very handy for the poorer people to go to the street and cry out 'here is one case'. The Madras City Improvement Trust has recently been brought into existence and some cheris have been chosen by them for improvement. All the people in the cheris have been asked to vacate, although no alternate huts or alternate plots have been allotted to them. What is to happen to these people, I want to know? I think it is high time that the Government think over this matter and try to come to the help of the poor people. After all, this is not a matter concerning only one or two individuals.

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These people have been living in the cheri for a long time; but now, without even an alternate site being given to them, they are being asked to get away. Where will these people go and stay, along with their wives and children? Mr. Varadachari said just now that we must have more of huts. Even our great leader Mahatma Gandhi was living in a hut, that is true; but he talked of 'environments'. I do not know what he meant by that. In a slum area where people are living in small huts; how can you get a better state of affairs when there is not much of education given to them, when their economic condition is not being improved and when poor people earning a few rupees, not even enough to meet both ends, are left without proper accommodation being provided for them? If such is the case of poor people even in the metropolis, you can easily imagine their condition in other areas. I therefore suggest that when the Government bring forward a legislation, it must be comprehensive and meet the needs of the man-in-the-street, the poorer classes of people. I admit the Government have done what they can do; but here is the case of the Cox cheri about which interested people go about making propaganda as to what the Government have done. Since the Government have now come forward with a definite proposal to extend the period of life of this Act by two years, I want them to consider whether it is in the best interests of the poorer people that something substantial should be done. My hon. Friend Sri Viswanatham rightly referred to the conditions of the poorer classes, the menials and the scavengers in the municipalities. Some municipalities have come forward and put up tenements for their menials; and I request the Government to do the same thing, if possible, in the City also."

* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Bill, I should like to make some suggestions to the Government. The housing problem is as great as the food problem or the cloth problem to-day in the whole of India. Unfortunately, soon after our Government came into power, they could not introduce such schemes as would benefit the poorer classes. Unfortunately, under our own Government, the rich people are becoming richer and the poor people are becoming poorer. Take, for instance, this housing problem. In order to give some sort of relief to the public, they built up the Gandhinagar at a cost of a few crores of rupees. The price of each house there is to-day Rs. 25,000, Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 60,000. And who are their owners? Only the rich people and not the poor. If, instead of spending some crores on Gandhinagar, they had spent the money on building small tenements for the class of people who work day and night in these offices in the City, and if the houses had been let to them for 10 per cent of their pay, they won't be suffering so much. To-day, Sir, under the present Government, it is the middle-class that is more affected; of course, the poorer classes are no better. Sir, I know, a change is going to take place and this adult franchise has not come for nothing. It has come for the benefit of the poorer classes. The

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hotch-potch of the classes that have partaken in this Government is not going to be there in future, because if people really utilise their franchise, they will have their own Government of the people by the people and for the poor, all for the poor alone. Sir, still I would like to suggest that you go into the streets of Madras and see how many people sleep in the nights outside. And, if you go into some of the cheris, you will see how dirty and bad they are there. Even in European countries, where also there are what are called slums in capitalist countries, they are not as bad as they are here. Here, even the City Fathers of the Corporation have not taken care of the poor people and they have not built any small tenements. I am sorry to say that our popular Government have not given their thought to this problem properly. If they had done so, this Bill would not have been brought forward.

"Sir, even under the present Act, the tenants have not been benefited much, but it is the landlords that are protected more. That is why I feel that a Committee should go through this Bill and see that it is made more beneficial to the tenants than to the landlords. Sir, Mahatma Gandhi lived in huts and he has shown us the way of simple living and high thinking. But, what happened to the followers of the same Mahatma? They want high living and poor thinking and that is why they are not caring so much for the poor people, for the unhappy and for the down-trodden. Sir, I know things are going to take a different turn shortly; probably—if not by the vote or if not constitutionally—a revolution may take place. If there is going to be no housing, no clothing and no food, the poor man may say, this is my own, my native land, and I will bring about a great revolution. I wish my Hon. Friends on the Treasury Bench go home to-day and ponder over the acts they have done, and see how they have governed this country and the way in which they have to govern the country in the future. To-morrow, we are going to the polls when there will be all sorts of complications and you will see how people are going to meet you. Of course, because they are backward politically—they are not politically conscious—they may vote for you this time, because you are talking of the very high principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal. But, then only for five years you are going to govern this country. Afterwards everything will go out of your hands, because you are not doing anything for the poor man. That is why I say this Bill should go before a committee. I do not know what the Hon. Leader of the House feels in the matter, but I feel it should go before a committee."

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN:—"Sir, I support the motion of the Hon. Finance Minister that the Government should be empowered to keep the Act in force for another two years. Hon. Begum Sahiba and other speakers are perfectly right in saying that as long as the housing problem remains unsolved, it will not be fair to repeal the Act and whatever merits or

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demerits there may be in the Act, it is certainly to the credit of the Government and the department concerned that the Act has worked very well; if it is not a cent per cent success, it has at least done some good to both the tenants and the landlords.

"Sir, some hon. Members have suggested that this Bill may be referred to a Select Committee. Of course, it is not possible that a measure of this kind could accommodate every aspect of the problem. There may be a thousand and one points to be dealt with in this connection and every case cannot be met by a Bill of this nature. In fact, this measure went before the Select Committee twice before and the Select Committee tried as far as possible to accommodate points in common. Therefore, I do not think it is necessary that at this stage the Bill should again be referred to a Select Committee. It may be all right for us to allow this Bill to be passed.

"Sir, on occasions like this it is usual for Members to raise bigger issues, for instance, the entire housing scheme for the City and in the whole of the State. But, I do not like to make a long speech now, particularly after hearing the speech of the Hon. Minister for Finance the other day in reply to the debate on the Governor's Address. In fact, many of us have told the Government times without number on previous occasions that they should try to solve the housing problem for the general public, be they the rich, the middle class or the poor. The first thing they should do is to try to solve the housing problem for the Government servants. If you tackle that problem, although it may cost an enormous amount, that would certainly go a long way to mitigate the difficulties of the people. In fact, it cannot also be said that Government did nothing in regard to the matter. The other day the Hon. Finance Minister said that so far they have given a loan of three crores of rupees to various co-operative housing societies in the City and in other places and also there is a demand for an expenditure of about another three crores under their planning scheme. Therefore, that itself will go a long way to solve the problem. But, I feel after hearing the speech of the Hon. Finance Minister that it is better we stop all talk of the housing problem—suggesting they should do this, that and so on—because the Hon. Finance Minister has made a charge against us for always referring to housing condition. In fact, it is because hon. Members know there are difficulties that they have to talk; and whenever people feel there are difficulties, they have certainly to look up to the Government, whether it is for food, clothing or housing. But during the last five days he has been saying that only Members of the League and some other Members have developed this phobia of complaining. So, what is the use of putting forward our remarks and suggestions on a matter which looks as if it were a matter for the administration, and when he thinks he is so optimistic and we are pessimistic? Especially when he says we have developed a sort of complaining mentality, I do not think there is any purpose in our addressing on that point any further, because it is not going to solve the

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problem and so it is best to leave it to the Hon. Leader of the House to have the Bill passed. In fact the Hon. Minister in charge has got many other portfolios besides this and so I do not like to take up the time of the House any further. I therefore support the motion."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, after all, the hon. Mr. Salam does not seem to be far from truth when he said that the question of rent control should not be there for all time; we should at same time try to solve the question once for all. He suggested that not only rent but also living space should be controlled. Such a suggestion may seem rather fantastic for people bred in India but if one looks carefully into conditions obtaining in those countries which are unfortunately called Red, but which on a closer examination would be found to be not so red as we seem to think, in Shanghai and other great cities of China, not to speak of Soviet cities—I get a number of journals which I read with some care—one would find that the very same problems are there in a much greater degree. In India, take, for instance, Madras. It had a bloated population during the war. When the dread of Japanese invasion was great, as many as 10 to 15 lakhs of people seem to have got into the town from the mufassal. But, I think, they should have departed long ago and could not be sticking there. Taking the case of China; for the past 10 years, China had been in war or on a war basis and millions of people got into the cities in China. But, then one year after, they got freedom from Chiang-kai-Shek's regime. How is it those countries which are supposed to be far behind our country, are able to solve their problems with greater ease and with less fuss? I wish to emphasise one point and that is, there is no justice or sense in allowing a man to have more than two houses. But there are people having 20 houses in a City like Madras, which are built up simply to be let. It is not just. That only enables one single man to control the housing system. There is also another disadvantage in that. It raises the land value artificially. I wish the Government impose a ban, just as the Land Revenue Reforms Committee have recommended a ban on acquisition of land, on ownership of houses also.

"Secondly, Sir, as Mr. Viswanatham has rightly pointed out, Government servants are primarily responsible for enhancing the rent values. They are often transferred from one place to another and they have to pay heavy rents, unless they are police officials who can manage otherwise. Therefore, it is very necessary that Government should take care of their servants by building houses which will suit not only the clerks but the big bosses as well, and thus relieve pressure on the housing problem.

"Thirdly, Sir, I would ask the Government to plan housing for the poor and middle-classes as well. No doubt, remarks have been made about Adyar. It is rather unfortunate. In those days the Government did not want to stop with the Adyar scheme

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alone, but wanted to have more such schemes. But, subsequently on account of other difficulties which came in the way they could not achieve their object. Take the case of the mufassal. I know of cases in my own district of Nellore. There, acquisition proceedings were started for acquiring about 10 acres of land for Government servants, at a cost of Rs. 2,000 per acre. It was all wet land and they got permission of the Government to convert it into dry land. Suddenly a spoke in the wheel was put by some influential man and the acquisition was stopped. An Hon. Minister of this Government went there and told the officials not to acquire. But everything was completed by this time and now the land sells not at Rs. 2,000 per acre, but at Rs. 30,000 per acre and people have been compelled to pay that price and purchase the same land at such huge prices. I do not know if it is the policy of the Government to increase prices of land artificially like that. On the other hand, under normal acquisition proceedings, poor people would have been enabled to build houses. Now, on account of carelessness or oversight or on account of false sympathy for the landowner or the ryot, these things have contributed to the problem becoming more acute. I would, therefore, ask the Government to take a realistic view of the matter and try not to extend the Bill after two years, but in the meanwhile think of building plans not only for the poorer classes but also for all classes."

1-15 p.m. * THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the suggestion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, you have already remarked that there is no motion to that effect before the House. There is another point I wish to make and that is that no purpose will be served by such a reference to the Select Committee. The purpose mentioned by Mr. Ansari and his supporters will not be served because any Select Committee cannot go into sections for which amendments have not been proposed before this House; they made so many suggestions which may involve consideration of clauses other than those for which amendments have been suggested by the measure before the House. That sets at rest one point that has been made and even if the Bill were to go before the Select Committee the amendments which they proposed cannot be gone into. So, the demand made to refer the Bill to a Select Committee by the exponents of this move cannot be accepted even if they had put in an amendment to that effect."

"Regarding the merits of the other objections raised with regard to the Bill, the hon. Gentleman Sri Viswanatham asked: What is the principle underlying an extension for two years? Is it the idea that the Government expect in the course of two years the housing problem to be solved? Is there any plan for the purpose? In that connexion, he also gave us certain suggestions about clearing slums and giving loans to municipalities. They are well worth examination. If, on the other hand, the period has been put in as five years, the question is likely to be

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asked: Why have you put in five years and not two years? Why do you deny the House the knowledge of what you may be doing within the two years for solving the problem? It is only for the purpose of giving the House a chance to know what has been done and of having the suggestions of hon. Members that we have laid down this period.

"Regarding the other matters, let me tell the House, Sir, that the Bill was passed in April last and it received the assent of the Governor on the first of May and so soon after it, after three or four months, it is too soon now, without working it sufficiently and knowing its defects, to go into further details. In the course of these three months, we found certain lacunae and ambiguities and it is better that we clear them and that is why, amendments have been proposed to certain sections.

"There is a proviso under section 7 (2) which says—

'Provided that in any case falling under clause (i), if the Controller is satisfied that the tenant's default to pay or tender rent was not wilful, he may, before making an order as aforesaid, give the tenant a reasonable time, not exceeding fifteen days, to pay or tender the rent due by him to the landlord up to the date of such payment or tender.'

But section 7-A (1), on the other hand, prevents the Controller from giving the tenant time, unless he deposits the arrears of rent due by him, so that we are giving him power under one section but taking it away under another and one is contradictory to the other. The intention is that section 7-A should operate subject to the proviso to section 7 (2) and that is why we say in the amendment—

'Notwithstanding anything contained in section 7-A'.

"It is an obvious mistake which we are now correcting and the proviso as amended will read—

'Provided that in any case falling under clause (i), if the Controller is satisfied that the tenant's default . . . was not wilful, he may, notwithstanding anything contained in section 7-A, give the tenant a reasonable time, not exceeding fifteen days, to pay or tender the rent due by him to the landlord up to the date of such payment or tender and on such payment or tender, the application shall be rejected.'

So that mistake has been corrected.

"Section 6 (1) says—

'Where the Controller has determined the fair rent of a building—
the landlord shall not claim or receive or stipulate for the payment of (i) any premium or other like sum in addition to such fair rent, or (ii) save as provided in section (5) or Section 5-A any rent in excess of such fair rent.'

'Any rent in excess of such fair rent' is meaningless as there cannot be a rent in excess of the fair rent and the fair rent is the rent. The idea is that the landlord should not collect anything other than the fair rent and here it may be interpreted to mean that something other than fair rent can also be collected. Sri Viswanatham said he did not like the words but let me point out to him, Sir, that the wording has been taken from the Estates Land Act which has been working all these years and it

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has not presented any difficulty. The words 'anything in addition to the rent lawfully payable' is there in that Act and so, Sir, there is nothing wrong in putting those words here.

"Sir, section 7-A provides for the payment or deposit of the rent 'at the rate at which it was last paid or agreed to be paid'. This creates various difficulties. The Rent Controller might have reduced or increased the rent. So, it is proposed to be omitted and it will read—

'unless he has paid or pays to the landlord, or deposits with the Controller or the appellate authority, as the case may be, all arrears of rent due in respect of the building up to the date of payment or deposit and continues to pay or to deposit any rent which may subsequently become due in respect of the building until the termination of the proceedings'

It is only in these two cases that there are doubts and there can be different interpretations and that is why we have proposed the amendments. There can be no difficulty with regard to the rest of the provisions."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

'That the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Second Amendment Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'

The motion was carried.

Clause 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

Clause 2.

MR. SPEAKER:—"The motion is—

'That clause 2 do stand part of the Bill.'"

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"The Hon. Minister said that the expression 'anything' has been taken from the Estates Land Act. I wish, Sir, he had not copied it. It is not elegant; it might have been elegant in those days but now it is not. I would suggest to him the words—

'any rent or any sum of money in excess of such fair rent.'

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Supposing he says he will take something in kind?"

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"But, Sir, this Act does not contemplate anything to be paid in kind. Let us not argue upon the basis of things which do not exist."

• THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Supposing he says he would like to have a hundred mangoes instead of money?"

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clauses 3, 4 and 5 were put and carried.

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

'That the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Second Amendment Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'"

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

The House then rose for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

(3) THE MADRAS WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Weights and Measures (Amendment) Bill, * 1951 and move—

'That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.'

"The question of regulating the sale of salt by having one uniform system has been engaging the attention of this Government since 1948. At present, in this State, manufacturers and wholesale dealers sell salt by weight while retail dealers sell it by measure. The Salt Department and the salt experts advocate the manufacture of only heavy crystal salt as it is good and pure. Some of our factories produce light flaky salt which is inferior in quality because such light salt gives greater number of measures per maund than heavy salt and such salt is in greater demand by the retail dealers who sell to the consumers by measure. This has given rise to an unhealthy competition among manufacturers and affected the proper advancement of our salt industry. The Salt Experts Committee have recommended that the sale of salt by measure should be prohibited by legislation and they have stated that, if this is done, it would encourage the Madras manufacturers to change over more quickly to the production of the heavy variety. The Central Government have directed the State Governments to enforce the retail sale of salt by weight and thus have one uniform system in regard to the sale of salt throughout the country. The Bombay Government have taken the necessary action in this matter. Other parts of the country also seem to have already adopted this system. The State Salt Industrialists' Association have represented to the Government last year that almost all the Associations representing the interests of salt manufacturers are in favour of enforcing the retail sale of salt by weight. This Bill seeks to amend the Madras Weights and Measures Act on the lines it has been done in Bombay. The sale of salt by weight will improve the quality of salt and benefit the consumers. I trust, therefore, that this amending Bill will be welcomed by the House."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Motion moved—

'That the Madras Weights and Measures (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can agree with the Hon. Minister in so far as the legislation he has brought forward to have one uniform system for regulating the

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sale of salt is concerned. But I may point out that this amending Bill will affect a particular section of people, viz., retailers. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it is stated that 'manufacturers and wholesale dealers are selling salt in terms of weight and only the retailers are selling salt in terms of measure'. Sir, so far as the southern districts of this State like Tirunelveli, Tanjore and Madurai are concerned—I do not know about the other districts—most of the people engaged in this trade are selling salt by measure. In fact, mostly, the retail sale of salt takes place in petty shops, shandies and by hawkers who carry salt in a hand-cart and sell them to people. These are the retailers who will be affected by this Bill.

"Now, Sir, I come to the penal clause of this Bill. According to this clause, 'any person who contravenes any provisions of this Bill shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees or with both.' Of course, this is the maximum punishment that is prescribed in this Bill and the minimum can be anything. Even when we prescribe the maximum punishment, it should be just and reasonable. If this legislation is intended for all classes of people engaged in the salt trade—I mean the manufacturers, wholesale dealers and retailers—then I would not object to the maximum punishment being meted out to them. But this Bill will affect only the retailers who are mostly ignorant of this Bill and its implications. In this connexion, I wish to point out that even some lawyers do not know the existence of some of the Acts that we pass in this House and some others lawyers do not know whether they have become law or not. Personally, I know a case where a lawyer was ignorant of the existence of an Act and I had to help him to find out the Act in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. If this is the position even with regard to lawyers, how can we expect the poor retailers to know the implications of this Bill? Therefore, I wanted to move an amendment to this clause so that the punishment may be lightened, but I could not give notice of it within the time-limit prescribed. Even now, it is not too late and the Hon. Minister can accept my amendment, a copy of which I have given him.

"Now, Sir, a word more about the manufacture of salt. So far as salt is concerned, our State is a deficit one and we have not made any effort to improve the salt industry of this State. I am told in the Pulikat Lake, there is ample scope for manufacturing salt on a large scale. Not only the Government but even private manufacturers can undertake this work as this will not involve capital investment of more than two crores of rupees. If we put this scheme into execution, I am sure that our State will not only become a surplus State so far as salt is concerned but can also export salt to other deficit State like West Bengal which import a large quantity of salt from foreign countries. Therefore, I request the Government to take up the manufacture of salt in the Pulikat Lake.

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"Before I close my speech, I once again request the Hon. Minister to accept my amendment."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Has the hon. Member moved an amendment?"

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"I have given a copy of my proposed amendment to the Hon. Minister and if he is agreeable, he can move it on my behalf."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Perhaps the hon. Member wants the Hon. Minister to move the amendment as a Government amendment."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Yes, Sir."

* JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN:—"Mr. Speaker, this appears to be a good measure and perhaps it has long been overdue. We are just thinking of imitating the Bombay Act and trying to help the salt industry—not only the salt industry but also the fish industry in the State. It is an enabling measure and I believe that, by introducing this amending Bill, the State will enable the people to properly get salt which, as we know, is an article of daily need in every household and which is a commodity essential for the fish industry in this State. This measure will enable the people to get good quality and the full quantity of salt that they want. My hon. Friend Mr. Natesa Chettiyar says that they will get it for the price they pay. Sir, we have to get everything for a price and without paying the price we cannot get the article that we need. Therefore, I believe that the Government are taking a right step in this direction and I must congratulate the Hon. Minister on having brought this measure forward before this Assembly so that the Government could take early action by taking powers to regulate the sale of salt by issue of a notification whenever they find it necessary that it should be sold by weight only—whether wholesale or retail. It is only an enabling measure and at any time it is open to the Government to issue a notification and say that it may be sold by measure also in case it is found necessary. Therefore, Sir, I welcome a measure like this and I heartily support the Bill."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, while I was listening to the debate on this Bill, a doubt has arisen in my mind whether the salt hitherto manufactured and sold is not to the satisfaction of the consumers and whether it is only to improve its quality that this measure has been brought forward. If it is so, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether the price of salt will, at any time, be increased or will be kept at the same level as it is to-day. Sir, as salt is a commodity which is essential to every human being—whether rich or poor—I would like to have an assurance from the Hon. Minister that the price of salt will be kept at the same level and will not be increased under any circumstances."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion moved by the Hon. Minister for Agriculture. As pointed out by my hon. Friend, Mr. Swaminathan, the penal

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clause of this Bill will be working hard on the poor retailers and I do not think that such a big amount as Rs. 500 as fine or imprisonment for three months or with both should be imposed on them.

2-45 p.m. "Every petty dealer who deals in salt will have to take a pucca weight. In these days, Sir, we know the costs of weights is enormous. Is it possible for these poor people to have the correct weight? If they do not have the correct weight, the people who are in charge of enforcing this piece of legislation will insist on the poor people to have the correct weights. So, Sir, in the interests of the poor, in the interests of the petty dealers who will be dealing in salt, I would request the Hon. Minister to reconsider the quantum of punishment that is suggested in the Bill and reduce it to a smaller amount."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"The penalty prescribed in this Bill, Sir, is based on the penalty prescribed in the Bombay Act for a similar offence. In the Madras Weights and Measures Act which this House has passed, the penalties prescribed under sections 9, 10, 12 and 14 are much higher and an offence is also subject to severe penalties. Under section 9 imprisonment for one year and fine of rupees one thousand under section 12 imprisonment for three years and a fine and under section 14 imprisonment for one year and a fine are prescribed. But in this case the penalty would be only to the extent of three months and a fine of rupees five hundred. It is open to the Court which awards the punishment to consider the gravity of the offence and the status of the offender and deal with him more lightly. There is no enhanced penalty prescribed under this Bill for a subsequent offence. Therefore, Sir, there is no justification for reducing the maximum limit of the punishment laid down in the Bill."

MR. SPEAKER :—"The question is—

'That the Madras Weights and Measures (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'

The motion was carried.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were put and carried.

Clause 4.

MR. SPEAKER :—"The motion is—

'That clause 4 do stand part of the Bill.'

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—"Sir, this is the clause prescribing a penalty of imprisonment for three months and a fine of rupees five hundred. I want to mention one thing about this clause. In fact I thought when my hon. Friend Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillai was asking for reduction of the quantum of punishment in respect of poor dealers of salt, that the Hon. Minister was going to agree to the reduction. I was able to read from his face, Sir, that he would give his assent to the proposed reduction. But, Sir, when the Hon. Minister rose, he immediately contradicted my view. He informed us that no real justification existed for reducing the penalty prescribed.

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"I do admit, Sir, that people who misuse the Madras Weights and Measures Act should be punished. Really, the people who make lakhs and lakhs of profit, namely, the big merchants who contravene the provisions of the Weights and Measures Act should be severely dealt with. Even if the Government were to prescribe five years of imprisonment to those people, I am prepared to accept it. But here, in this case, the people involved are poor and innocent merchants who sell salt in the mufassal places. By the passing penalty clause, the poor merchants would be put to a lot of difficulty. They may be prosecuted for not possessing the correct weight. The sentence depends on the whims and fancies of the magistrates who will try such cases. Some magistrates may award a lighter punishment while some others might be very harsh in their judgments.

"What I want to say is this: The people who are involved here are innocent folk. For instance if I go to my village and question the street hawker dealing in salt for his not possessing the correct weights and if I were to say to him that he would be punishable according to law, he will pounce upon me and say: 'What Sir, I have been doing this sort of business for many years. I do not know that you have passed this Act.' The poor merchant should really be given some relief. Therefore I am placing this before Government, namely, that they reconsider their previous decision and try to reduce the penalty proposed."

* THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"Sir, my hon. Friend has only repeated his previous arguments and has not said anything new. This is a matter which has been considered by the Government at the time of the drafting of the Bill. It was considered that in the interests of the better working of the Act it would be necessary to prescribe such deterrent punishment. It is up to the Court trying such offences to award a lighter punishment."

MR. SPEAKER :—"The question is—

'That clause 4 do stand part of the Bill.'

The motion was carried.

Clause 5 was put and carried.

The Preamble was put and carried.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"Sir, I now move—

'That the Madras Weights and Measures (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'

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

[27th August 1951]

(4) THE MADRAS TOWNS NUISANCES (AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION TO PUDUKKOTTAI) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Towns Nuisances (Amendment and Extension to Pudukkottai) Bill*, 1951, and move—

'That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.'

"There are two things to be said in respect of this Bill. Firstly the Madras Towns Nuisances Act is extended to the merged State of Pudukkottai. Secondly under the Madras Towns Nuisances Act, 1889 (Madras Act III of 1889), section 3, clause (10), use of sound amplifiers and megaphones is prohibited except at such times and places and subject to such conditions as may be allowed by an Officer of the Police Department not below the rank of a District Superintendent of Police. Usually it leads to considerable delay to get the permit from the District Superintendent of Police. It also increases the work of the District Superintendent of Police. Therefore the amendment has been made, made, namely, that for the word 'District Superintendent of Police' the words 'not below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police', be substituted."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Motion moved—

'That the Madras Towns Nuisances (Amendment and Extension of Pudukkottai) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'"

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"I agree with the Hon. Law Minister. But why should the Government come forward with this kind of piecemeal legislation extending this Act which is in force in Madras State to only the merged State of Pudukkottai? Why should not the Acts in force in Madras State be made applicable *uniformly* to all the merged States? In fact, last years, Sir, when the Government came forward for giving effect to the Estate Abolition Act in the Pudukkottai State, I pointed out to the Government that in the State there were Inams, whole Inams and minor Inams. I was in favour of the application of the Act relating to the acquisition of Inams to the State of Pudukkottai also. The Government said that they had called for reports and that action would be taken on receipt of reports from the Collector.

"Here, the Minister comes for the extension of the Madras Towns Nuisances Act to only the State of Pudukkottai. I ask Sir, why should not the Government make the existing Acts in force in Madras State applicable to all the merged States?"

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:—"Sir, while wholeheartedly supporting this Bill that has been put forward by the Hon. Minister for Law I voice the same feelings which have been expressed by my friend Mr. R. V. Swaminathan. Instead of bringing

* Published in the *Port St. George Gazette*, dated 26th June 1951.

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forward these measures piece-meal, why should not the Government take a comprehensive view of things and extend all the existing laws in the State (Madras) to the merged States? Some of the existing Acts, as my previous friend has pointed out, have not been extended to all the merged States. For example, the Hindu Religious Endowment Act which is in vogue in the State of Madras has not been extended to Sandur State where the temples are still being managed by private persons. I request Government to see that every Act is extended to the States that have merged with our State and see that it is made applicable uniformly in all parts of the State."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Sir, if I remember correctly, there is also a legislation for the merged States making most of the laws which are not existing in the merged States but which are existing in the Union. If at all a certain piece of legislation has not been extended to a merged State, it would have been due to the existing in force of corresponding legislation in that particular State. More detailed information in this regard if there is any, shall be furnished and laid on the table of the House, shortly."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

'That the Madras Towns Nuisances (Amendment and extension to Pudukkottai) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration.'"

The motion was carried.

The Preamble and clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were put and carried.

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

'That the Madras Towns Nuisances (Amendment and Extension to Pudukkottai) Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'"

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

(5) THE MADRAS DRUGS (CONTROL) AMENDMENT BILL, 1951.

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"Mr. 3 p.m. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Drugs (Control) Amendment Bill*, 1951 and move—

'That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.'

"This is a small amendment. As mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, section 12 of the Madras Drugs (Control) Act, 1949 (Madras Act XXX of 1949), provides *inter alia* for drugs being requisitioned and acquired on payment of such compensation as may be prescribed by rules under the Act. The Central Act on the subject, which applies to Part C States (XXVI of 1950), takes no such powers; and the Board of Revenue has reported that there is no need to take such powers in this State

* Published in the *Port St. George Gazette*, dated 3rd July 1951.

[Sri J. L. P. Roche Victoria] [27th August 1951]

also, as the drugs market here is fairly steady. The Bill accordingly seeks to omit the provisions dealing with this matter from the Madras Act."

The motion was carried.

The Preamble and clauses 1 and 2 were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

'That the Bill be passed into law.'"

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

'That the Madras Drugs (Control) Amendment Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'"

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

IV.—MOTION UNDER RULE 22 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES.

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move under rule 22 of the Assembly Rules—

'That item 9 of the Agenda, viz., The Andhra University (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken up now before item 6.'"

The motion was put and carried.

III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS—cont.

(6) THE ANDHRA UNIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Andhra University (Amendment) Bill*, 1951, and move—

'That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.'

" Sir, this has become necessary because of the division of the old Vizagapatam district. Consequent on the bifurcation of the Visakhapatnam district into the Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts with effect from the 15th August 1950, it has become necessary to substitute references to those districts in the place of the existing references to the Visakhapatnam district in the Andhra University Act, 1925 (Madras Act II of 1926). The Bill makes the necessary provision in this behalf and also validates the elections which were held after that date, in pursuance of clause (4) under the heading 'Class III—Other Members' as if there had been no such bifurcation.

" We have also taken the opportunity of amending the Act to abolish representation for landholders on the Senate of the Andhra University with effect from 1st October 1953, the date on which the term of the existing members of the Senate will

* Published in the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 14th August 1951.

[27th August 1951] [Sri K. Madhava Menon]

expire, as there are now no landholders consequent on the abolition of estates by the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948 (Madras Act XXVI of 1948), and it is unnecessary to continue the separate representation for them."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

'That the Andhra University (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'"

The motion was carried.

The Preamble and clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were put and carried.

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

'That the Bill be passed into law.'"

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

'That the Andhra University (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'"

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The Hon. Minister has increased the power of nomination from 12 to 14. Nomination is not considered to be a very good thing and I would have very much liked him to explain to us why it should be increased in this manner simply because representation for landholders is taken away. If the seats for landholders are to be abolished they may, in justice, be given to some other electoral college where there is the principle of election, e.g., for the graduates. Instead of that the Government seem to think that the Chancellor should be given the power to nominate. I do not think it is a very good thing. It is better that these two seats are added to the number of seats to be elected by the graduates."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, if these two seats are taken away the statutory strength of the Senate will be reduced for the time being. So these two seats will be filled up by nomination and nomination is generally being done on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor. Of course, the suggestion will be considered and I shall come to the House again if necessary."

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

IV.—MOTION UNDER RULE 22 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES—cont.

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move under rule 22 of the Assembly Rules—

'That item (3) under IV—Government Motions on the Agenda—Amendment to Schedule IV to the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 (Madras Act V of 1920), be taken up now.'"

The motion was put and carried.

[27th August 1951]

V.—GOVERNMENT MOTION.

AMENDMENT TO SCHEDULE IV TO THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES ACT, 1920 (MADRAS ACT V OF 1920).

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

“Whereas certain rules amending Schedule IV to the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 (Madras Act V of 1920), were made by His Excellency the Governor of Madras in exercise of the powers conferred by section 305 (1) of that Act, for the reasons mentioned in the Annexure, when the Proclamation under section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935, was in force in this State;

“And whereas the said rules ceased to be in force on the 30th April 1948;

“And whereas it is expedient to re-issue these rules with retrospective effect on and from the 30th April 1948;

“Now, therefore, in pursuance of section 305-A of the Madras District Municipalities Act aforesaid, this Assembly hereby approves the following draft rules proposed to be made by His Excellency the Governor of Madras under section 305, sub-section (1), of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 (Madras Act V of 1920), amending Schedule IV to that Act with retrospective effect on and from the 30th April 1948 :—

Draft Rules.

“(1) In rule 40 (b) of the said Schedule, for the expression “the establishment and maintenance of schools, the construction and maintenance of school-houses.” the following expression shall be substituted, namely :—

“the establishment and maintenance of schools and hostels, the construction and maintenance of school-houses and hostel buildings.”

“(2) In rule 52 of the said Schedule, the word “and” at the end of clause (iii) shall be omitted and the following item shall be added at the end, namely :—

“(v) for the opening and maintenance of hostels for students.” , ,

The motion was put and carried.

The House then adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, the 28th August 1951.

27th August 1951]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 29 asked by Sri S. Nagappa at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 27th August 1951, page 239 supra.]

A statement showing details of exhibitions held in the districts of Chittoor, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Bellary and Anantapur during the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 and the number of persons that attended and the cattle exhibited.

District.	(1)	(2)	The cost of each exhibition.			The number of persons that attended and cattle exhibited during the three years.		
			1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	Persons.	Cattle.	
			(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
1. Chittoor ..	7		(1) 3 0 0 (2) 20 0 0 23 0 0	(3) 48 14 0 (4) 50 0 0 98 14 0	(5) 4 0 0 (6) 300 0 0 (7) 10 0 0 314 10 0	130,000	460	
			Three years' total ..			436 8 0		
2. Kurnool ..	15		(1) 55 0 0 (2) 100 0 0 (3) 50 0 0 (4) 50 0 0 (5) 30 0 0 (6) 50 0 0 335 0 0	(7) 30 0 0 (8) 20 0 0 (9) 48 3 0 (10) 100 0 0 (11) 100 0 0 (12) 20 0 0 328 3 0	(13) 100 0 0 (14) 85 0 0 (15) 39 4 0 224 4 0	31,800	11,000	
			Three years' total ..			887 7 0		
3. Cuddapah ..	22		(1) 6 0 0 (2) 25 0 0 (3) 30 0 0 (4) 40 0 0 (5) 40 13 0 (6) 40 0 0	(9) 30 0 0 (10) 48 0 0 (11) 50 0 0 (12) 30 0 0 (13) 20 0 0 187 0 0	(14) 50 0 0 (15) 16 0 0 (16) 50 0 0 (17) 50 0 0 (18) 23 6 0 150,150	150,150	5,370	

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District.	The number of agricultural exhibitions and fairs held by the Agricultural Department during the three financial years.	The cost of each exhibition.			The number of persons that attended and cattle exhibited during the three years.		
		1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	Persons.		Cattle.
		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
(1)	(2)	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.			
4. Bellary..	20	(7) 5 0 0 (8) 25 0 0 211 13 0	198 0 0	(20) 40 0 0 (21) 20 0 0 (22) 70 0 0 309 6 0	498,000	138,000	
		Three years' total ..	719 3 0				
5. Anantapur ..	26	(1) 11 0 0 (2) 50 0 0 (3) 3 4 0 (4) 18 14 0 (5) 110 10 0 193 12 0	(6) 46 9 0 (7) 46 0 0 (8) 20 0 0 (9) 20 0 0 (10) 120 0 0 (11) 20 0 0 (12) 20 0 0 286 0 0	(13) 48 0 0 (14) 20 0 0 (15) 20 0 0 (16) 20 0 0 (17) 20 0 0 (18) 150 0 0 (19) 20 0 0 (20) 114 0 0 412 0 0	18,000	1,330	
		Three years' total ..	891 12 0				
		(1) 20 0 0 (2) 0 13 0 (3) 0 4 0 (4) 1 0 0 (5) 20 0 0 (6) 20 0 0 (7) 20 0 0 (8) 16 7 0 98 8 0	(9) 24 8 0 (10) 28 0 0 (11) 5 0 0 (12) 15 0 0 (13) 20 0 0 (14) 5 0 0 (15) 15 0 0 112 8 0	(16) 25 0 0 (17) 5 0 0 (18) 2 0 0 (19) 4 0 0 (20) 25 0 0 (21) 25 0 0 (22) 20 0 0 (23) 20 0 0 (24) 15 0 0 (25) 20 0 0 (26) 20 0 0 194 0 0			
		Three years' total ..	405 0 0				

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide item III (1) on page 241 supra.]

* Confidential.

(For the information exclusively of the Members.)

To

THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
MADRAS.

The Select Committee appointed to consider the Madras Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks (Amendment) Bill, 1951 (L.A. Bill No. 9 of 1951), has the honour to make the following report.

2. The Bill was published in English in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 6th February 1951.

3. The Select Committee was appointed on the 3rd April 1951.

4. The Select Committee met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 12 noon on Thursday, the 10th May 1951, and again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 4th June 1951. At the second meeting the Select Committee agreed with the Chairman that the Bill prejudicially affected the liability of a joint Hindu family and especially the rights of minors under Hindu Law and might be dropped.

The Committee reports accordingly.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
12th June 1951.

K. CHANDRAMOULI,
Chairman.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 28th August 1951.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Unauthorized buses running on Mangalagiri-Tullur road.

* 30 Q.—SRI K. LINGA RAJU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any buses were found running on Mangalagiri-Tullur road in Guntur district without the sanction of the Regional Transport Authority;

(b) if so, their numbers and the names of proprietors of these buses;

(c) whether any enquiries have been made to locate the responsibility for running these buses; and

(d) whether any officers have been suspended in this connexion?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) to (c) Two buses belonging to the National Motor Transport Workers' Union, Mangalagiri, were found running between Mangalagiri and Tullur in the Guntur district without permits. One was a condemned bus which had no number and the other bus was registered as MDG 1662. The President and the Secretary of the Union, and the drivers and conductors of the buses who were prosecuted have been convicted and sentenced by the Additional District Magistrate, Guntur.

“(d) Departmental action has not yet been concluded.”

SRI K. LINGA RAJU:—“May I know, Sir, if the concerned officers have made a statement that an Hon. Minister advised them to permit those buses?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“In view of the fact that the conclusions in the enquiry have not been arrived at, I think it is better we leave it at that and take it up as soon as the verdict is given on that enquiry. These questions may probably prejudice the enquiry, which is now taking place.”

SRI K. LINGA RAJU:—“May I point out, Sir, that the matter has been taken up on appeal and the appeal also has been disposed of and I do not see why the matter is deemed to be under enquiry?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“I did not say that the matter is *sub judice*, but the departmental enquiry has not yet been concluded. If it is in court, it is *sub judice*. Now that it is under departmental enquiry I think it is better we do not discuss it here at this stage.”

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, clause (d) of the question relates to the suspension of certain officers. Pending the enquiry or pending the decisions of the Government, the question is, whether any officers have been suspended; and if so, who the officers are? I ask as a matter of information, whether any officers have been suspended and if so, how many of them and who they are? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The Regional Transport Authority and the Motor Vehicles Inspector who are working under the Transport department are under suspension and certain police constables and people like that working under the Police department, I think, are also under suspension—of course, I am not quite sure about the latter. But, I am quite sure that the Regional Transport Officer and the Motor Vehicles Inspector are under suspension."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" On a point of order, Sir. I can understand your ruling out questions which have pertinence to matters which are *sub judice*. That is a well-known principle of law and procedure. But, Sir, the other point that you tried to impress upon us was that even matters which are under departmental enquiry or investigation should not be discussed here. I submit that with regard to matters under departmental enquiry, the House is competent to have the information asked for."

MR. SPEAKER :—" But not so as to prejudice the enquiry that is going on."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Therefore, Sir, what I submit is that you, as Speaker, must find out what the question is and whether such question will prejudice the enquiry."

MR. SPEAKER :—" That is why I told the hon. Member Mr. Linga Raju not to go into details."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, some of us want to put supplementary questions, but even before the supplementary questions are put, I submit, Sir, the Chair cannot rule them out without knowing the purport and the purpose of the questions. The question that I wanted to put was, how long these two buses had been running without permits just to show what length of time either the Police department or any other department took for discovering this grave irregularity and so on? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" Strictly speaking, the question is not *sub judice*. I shall take the House into confidence and say that in the last Speakers' Conference we discussed this question and we came to the conclusion that it would be better to avoid all this. So, let us have the result of the enquiry and then every Member will have an opportunity to discuss the question. As I said, it is not exactly *sub judice*, because it is under departmental enquiry, and the Tribunal will try to get all information. So, at this stage it is better we do not take up this matter into consideration."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" As regards your ruling, may I know, Sir, what it is? "

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MR. SPEAKER :—" What I said was that this question is under enquiry. So, if we discuss it now, probably the enquiry may be prejudiced and we should not come to any conclusion before the enquiry has been completed."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Then, Sir, do we understand that what you have said just now attains the position of a ruling which should apply to all other questions of a similar nature? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is not a ruling. What I say is the House should avoid such things. If I had known before that this matter is under enquiry, I would have asked the hon. Member to postpone the question to some other date."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I submit, Sir, that I can understand your not allowing any questions being put on matters which are *sub judice* which are likely to influence or prejudice any decision that may be arrived at by a Tribunal. But inasmuch as this matter is under departmental enquiry, I submit that, just as any Committee sits with regard to so many matters, it is the prerogative of this House to thrash out questions in this House in order that it may be possible for those who are conducting the enquiry to be benefited from the discussion taking place here. After all, this House is a sovereign body and, as such, it has got every right to go into the question and suggest the manner and method of doing things."

MR. SPEAKER :—" So as to even prejudice the enquiry? "

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" No, no, but to help the enquiry."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" I would like to submit one thing in this connexion, Sir. If the matter is before a court, the question of contempt and other things might arise. But in this matter, I think there are two ways open to the Hon. Speaker to put a stop to questions raised in the House. One is the Hon. Minister can say that the matter is under enquiry and no further questions can be put. There is also the other procedure that is adopted in the House of Commons. There, not more than two or three supplementary questions are permitted. By that way the Speaker can stop supplementary questions. The Chair should not give a ruling that we should not put supplementary questions because the matter is under enquiry by a Tribunal or department."

SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" Sir, the principle you were pleased to enunciate is, when there is a court or tribunal going into a question, the discussion in this House should not prejudice the findings or the enquiry. So far as that is concerned, I may say with great respect, that is a good and sound proposition. But a departmental enquiry could never be included in this. If, however, you hold that a departmental enquiry should not be touched upon, no question

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can ever be agitated or discussed in this House. Suppose it is an adjournment motion which is asked for to-day. There might be some enquiry going on. If it is only a departmental enquiry, I would submit that you may kindly review your ruling because on any question that comes before this House there is sure to be some sort of enquiry or other. Take the case of a tribunal or a court. They are independent bodies and they come to some conclusions independent of the executive. Therefore, anything said here should not prejudice the proceedings before them. But a departmental enquiry into some matter can go on for months together and a discussion of it can, under this ruling, be held up on the ground that there is a departmental enquiry going on. I therefore, submit that you, Sir, may be pleased to reconsider the matter."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I now pass on to the next question."

Refusal of permission to non-communists for conducting dramas.

* 31 Q.—SRI A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether any complaints have been received by the Government recently that some of the Subdivisional Magistrates of Krishna district are arbitrarily refusing permission to non-communists for conducting ordinary dramas?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" No complaint refusing permission to enact any particular drama has been received by Government. However, representations have been made that the notification extending section 10 of the Dramatic Performances Act to Krishna district may be withdrawn. They are under consideration."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Sir, may I know, in what district this obsolete Act is still in operation? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, it may be an old Act, but it is not an obsolete Act as is clear from the very question that it is in operation in the Krishna district. I cannot give information in regard to the other districts now."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—" When did the representations reach the Government and how long will it take for the Government to pass final orders? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The representations were made personally to the Hon. Minister for Finance when he was in Masulipatnam in about April 1951. After that we have asked the Collector of the district whether there is any necessity to retain the ban? "

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know, Sir, what are the kinds of dramas which are generally prohibited? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" No particular kind of drama has been banned at all. In Krishna district, a new association styled the Andhra Art Theatre Association was started and the dramas they enacted were of such a highly

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subversive nature that the district authorities wanted those dramas to be banned. The Government therefore extended section 10 of the Dramatic Performances Act to the Krishna district by which a licence of the Subdivisional Magistrate will be required to perform any drama. So, no particular drama was banned and people have been performing dramas after obtaining the necessary licence. Recently when the Hon. Finance Minister went to Masulipatnam, representations were made to him about certain difficulties and on his initiative we have asked the Collector whether it is necessary to remove the ban and we are considering the question of withdrawing the extension of section 10 of the Act to the district."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—" I can understand Government prohibiting a particular drama if it is subversive, but in regard to all dramas in the district it is now necessary that permission should be taken and the magistrates are always refusing permission on the ground that the application for licence was late and so on. And, even when some important persons go and represent, they do not care. That is why I ask why should this sort of thing exist at all, I mean, permission for each drama. Even when some drama is enacted by some people, the same is prohibited in the case of others."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" It is not a case of objection to the performance of dramas at all. In fact, they begin and very cleverly do it in that guise and when they introduce subversive things later on, it is not possible to prohibit a particular drama from the way in which they do it. That is why we extended section 10 of the Act which requires permission being taken from the Subdivisional Magistrate to perform the drama, which is generally given if it is not objectionable."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know the names of those 11-15 objectionable dramas so that gentlemen like us here can avoid them? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The names of the dramas do not at all give any clue to the inflammatory nature of their theme."

Contravention of the provisions of the Madras Estates Communal, Forest and Private Land Act, 1947, by the ex-Zamindar of Devarakota.

* 32 Q.—SRIMATHI V. SITAMAHALAKSHMAMMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to place on the table of the House the reply given by the ex-Zamindar of Devarakota (Krishna district) to the " Show Cause " notice issued to him for having contravened the provisions of the Madras Estates Communal, Forest and Private Land (Prohibition of Alienation) Act, 1947, and the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, along

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with the remarks of the Collector, Krishna district, and the Board of Revenue; passed on it, and the final orders of the Government thereon?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ The Government consider that it will not be in the public interest to place the papers on the table of the House. The explanation of the Zamindar of Devarakota to the ‘ Show Cause ’ notice was accepted, but he was warned not to allow any more cutting of trees in the areas in question.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—“ May I have a gist of the reply of the Zamindar to the communication from the Government?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ Whether it is part or whole, Sir, I have already said that it is not in the public interest to say what it is and therefore, I am not prepared to give the gist.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ May I know, Sir, whether the final order of the Government is also to be treated as confidential?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ I have already said that after accepting his explanation he was warned not to allow any more cutting of trees.”

Monthly quota of yarn allotted by the Central Government.

* 33 Q.—SRI A. J. ARUNACHALAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) what action was taken on the resolution passed by the Assembly requesting the Central Government to allot 29,000 bales per month to this State; and

(b) the action taken by the State Government to get the required quota?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ (a) & (b) This Government have made repeated representations to the Government of India to increase the monthly State quota of yarn to 29,780 bales for handlooms besides 3,100 required for other consumers. Supplies to this State are steadily improving with the increase in the free yarn in the All-India Pool.”

SRI A. J. ARUNACHALAM :—“ May I know, Sir, why the supply of yarn to this State is not uniform every month, that is for one month we get a supply of 17,000 bales, in the next month we get 16,500 bales and in the third month only 16,000 bales and whenever we get a reduced number of bales, there is some sort of agitation on the part of weavers.”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ It depends upon the extent of production by the mills.”

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SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—“ May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Textile Controller of Bombay, has leanings towards the mill-owners and as a result of it, discontent prevails in this State?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ I do not think so, Sir.”

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—“ Now and then, Sir, the Director of Controlled Commodities makes an announcement that so many bales are to be received for a particular month, but when the bales are received, they are not equal to the number previously announced and in that way, there is suffering in the State. Might I know, Sir, why this sort of discrepancy takes place?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ Formerly the allotment was made on anticipated production, but now the allotment is made on the basis of actual production and there is no difficulty.”

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—“ May I ask, Sir, if the Government have considered the desirability of appointing a Special Minister to make representations to the Central Government about the food and yarn position?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ That question must be put to the Chief Minister.”

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—“ Is it not in the interests of the Ministers and also in the interests of the Government to get as much supply of yarn as possible from the Centre in order to facilitate a very good distribution to the weavers, especially now when we are on the eve of general elections?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ General elections have nothing to do with the supply of yarn; the Government are trying to get more yarn from the Centre.”

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Is it not a fact, Sir, that handloom weavers are already complaining that there is no sale for their products and there is a glut in the handloom industry?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ That question, Sir, does not arise from this answer.”

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—“ Is any yarn produced in the State exported outside this State and if so, what is the quantity sent out?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ Is it outside the State or outside India, Sir?”

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—“ Outside the State to any part of India or any part of the world.”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ All the yarn produced goes to the All-India Pool and it is distributed Statewar.”

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JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“ What is the opinion of the Government of Madras regarding the export of yarn to other countries and if the Government of Madras are opposed to it, have they influenced the Government of India with regard to that matter? ”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ Yes, Sir, at the instance of the Government of Madras, the export of yarn was banned.”

Permission for cutting banyan trees in Viswareddipalayam.

* 34 Q.—SRI A. SUBRAHMANYAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have granted any permission to one Sri R. Lakshminarayana Reddiyar of Maduraipakkam Kambattam of Villupuram taluk, South Arcot district, for cutting banyan trees in Viswareddipalayam village;

(b) if so, how many green trees were permitted to be cut and why; and

(c) whether any petitions were presented recently by the abovesaid villagers to the Government, objecting to the cutting of the said green trees, and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ (a) & (b) Permission was granted by the local revenue officials to Sri R. Lakshminarayana Reddiar, of Maduraipakkam, for the cutting of three live banyan trees in R.S. No. 543, Arasanthangal poromboke on the outskirts of Viswareddipalayam, a hamlet of Maduraipakkam on payment of seigniorage value of Rs. 63-8-0 for purposes of putting up well curbs.

“(c) The villagers of Viswareddipalayam put in a petition to the Sub-Collector, Tindivanam, objecting to the cutting of the trees. The Collector of South Arcot, on the recommendation of the Sub-Collector, Tindivanam, ordered the stoppage of the further cutting of the third tree (two having been cut already). On a representation made by the original grantee, the Government examined the question and confirmed the orders of the Collector.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ May I know, Sir, what in these days of Vanamahotsava prompted in the beginning the grant of permits for cutting down the trees? ”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ Even in these days of Vanamahotsava, wells have to be constructed for irrigation purposes.”

Opening of a paint industry at Timmencherla.

* 35 Q.—SRI A. RAYAPPA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the stage at which the opening of a paint industry at Timmencherla in Anantapur district stands and when the Government are going to take up the scheme; and

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(b) the stage at which the opening of lithopone industry at Vempalli, Cuddapah district, stands?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ (a) & (b)

The Government have invited private enterprise for starting paint and lithopone factories in the Rayalaseema districts and have offered assistance to prospective promoters.”

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI :—“ May I know, Sir, whether any applications have been received in response to the invitation, offering to take up this industry? ”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ No applications have been received so far.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ In view of the fact that the Rayalaseema is a poor area and it is very difficult for any industrialists to come forward, will the Government consider the desirability of starting the industry as a Government concern? ”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ The last day for the receipt of applications is the first of October and we will wait till then and then decide what we must do.”

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—“ In case some private firms come forward, will the Government take some shares so that they may be encouraged to come forward? ”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ It depends upon their request to the Government.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—“ May I ask the Government to investigate the fact that apart from the very small availability of raw materials like red ochre, which is quite essential for the paint industry, industrialists are not to be found in Rayalaseema and it will be very difficult to make it a success? ”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ I would draw the attention of the hon. Member to the Press Note issued on the 30th March 1951.”

SRI A. RAYAPPA :—“ If no applications are received from the public, may I ask, Sir, whether the Government themselves will be taking up the industry? ”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ I have already answered that question.”

Scheme to liquidate illiteracy in the State.

* 36 Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to liquidate illiteracy and to achieve cent per cent literacy in the State before 1960 according to the new Constitution of India;

(b) if so, what it is; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“(a) to (c). The Government recently examined the question of introducing universal, free and compulsory elementary education in the State. Although the aim of the Government is to introduce universal, free and compulsory elementary education within the State in the shortest time possible, they are not in a position to do much all at once in view of the heavy expenditure involved and of the difficulties in obtaining the army of teachers required for the purpose and the very large number of buildings necessary for housing the new schools. However, as a first step towards the achievement of this aim, the Government have provided a sum of Rs. 5 (five) lakhs in the Budget Estimate for 1951-52 for bringing more children under instruction.

“The Director of Public Instruction had proposed that the provision of Rs. 5 lakhs may be utilized—

(i) for giving special subsidies to district boards towards the cost of opening new schools in schoolless centres with a population of 1,000 to 2,000; and

(ii) for introducing the shift system in existing elementary schools;

“The Government have approved both the proposals, but directed that proposal (ii) should be adopted ordinarily, proposal (i) being given effect to only in such areas where it is not feasible to introduce the shift system.

“The teachers employed under the shift system will be paid a special allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem in addition to their usual pay and allowances.”

11-30 a.m. SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—“May I know whether the Government have taken any steps to remove adult illiteracy in the State and if so, what they are?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“Sir, a very large number of adult schools and adult training schools have been opened and a very large number of adult schools exists now. I think the House sanctioned an amount of about six lakhs of rupees this year and the Government of India have also sanctioned six lakhs of rupees. Thirteen lakhs of rupees have been budgeted and allotted for the spread of adult education in the State.”

SRI L. C. PAIS :—“Are the Government aware that insistence on endowments to the extent of several thousands in the case of new schools operates as an obstacle to some extent, to the liquidation of adult illiteracy?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“No question of endowment arises in the case of elementary schools at all. Even in the case of secondary schools, the presumption of my hon. Friend is not correct.”

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—“May I know, to what areas the Government propose extending the scheme of compulsory elementary education in the State during this year?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“The Government do not propose to extend it to any particular area this year.”

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI :—“In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister that there are difficulties of finance, may I ask the Government, whether, instead of taking up this question wholesale, they will try the experiment of having a pilot scheme, viz., introducing compulsory education in one or two districts so that it may spread from district to district?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“The question of finance is one of the difficulties. There are various other difficulties, viz., the army of teachers required and the number of buildings required.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“May I know whether the Government have considered the scheme of compelling high school and college students to devote a little time not only in the vacation period but also in the ordinary school days for spreading literacy among men and women?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“I do not think, it would be advisable to compel young students to do anything like that.”

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—“Do the Government consider that the provision already made for the liquidation of illiteracy is sufficient and if not, have the Government under contemplation any definite plan spread over a period of years for liquidating illiteracy in the State?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“Sir, I have already stated that it is not a question of the Government being satisfied. We are certainly satisfied that more schools have to be opened and more children have to be educated; but, as I said, these difficulties of finance, teachers and accommodation permit us to do only this now. The plan is to have as many schools in schoolless areas as possible in the course of ten or fifteen years.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“Have the Government done anything to encourage college and high school students to take to this movement for liquidating illiteracy among the people?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“Sufficient propaganda is done among them on the principle, ‘each one teach one’ and quite a good number of students are already helping in the matter.”

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI :—“In view of the fact that the Hon. Minister has admitted in the course of his reply that several thousands of teachers are necessary, may I know what methods the Government are actively pursuing to obtain a large army of teachers, both men and women?”

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THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" We are trying to increase the number of training schools to the extent possible."

SRI M. R. APPA RAO :—" Is it not possible to make every secondary school a training school also? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" No, Sir."

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—" Is it not a fact that a considerable number of school-going children in areas where elementary education is in force, is not attending schools? May I know, what steps the Government have taken to see that the district boards and municipalities which are in charge of enforcing the Act, are compelled to see that the school-going children are sent to schools? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Compulsion can be enforced only in areas where the compulsory elementary education scheme is in force. The provision to make them attend schools is there in the Act itself and the respective municipalities and district boards are taking action in such cases by prosecuting parents for not sending their children to schools."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—" Sir, since the Government are suffering from a defeatist mentality in regard to the solution of the problem of elementary education in these days of Planning, is it not desirable that the Government should convene a Conference or appoint an Expert Committee to examine this question and put forward a scheme in relation to this matter? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, I do not congratulate the hon. Member on her trying to know the mentality of others. Anyhow, I certainly repudiate the idea that we have a defeatist mentality in this matter. It is the question of practical consideration that weighs with us."

JANAB MOHAMED REFEEUDDIN AHMAD ANSARI :—" May I know the standard of literacy that is aimed at by the Government? Is it the elementary education standard or is it only the knowledge to read and write in one language? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, Article 45 of the Constitution says, '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'. So, it is 'education' up to 14 years. The interpretation of it, whether it is literacy only or education, must be left to the good sense of the hon. Member himself."

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—" Is it not a fact that local bodies are not enforcing the penal provision of this Act and if that is so, why not Government take some action against them? "

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THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I am just reminded by the hon. Member, Mr. Viswanatham, that prosecutions can be launched against them by the respective District Educational Officers under an amendment of the Act. If any case is brought to my notice where action has not been taken, I shall certainly enquire into the matter."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—" The Hon. Minister did not reply to the latter part of my question. Only he grew agitated over the first part of my question. I want to know whether the Government will appoint an Expert Committee to examine this matter and forward suggestions for solving this problem? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I do not think an Expert Committee is required for this."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—" May I know, whether the Government have got any statistics relating to the illiterate population in this State according to the latest census? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I have not got them with me anyhow."

SRI S. C. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, may I know whether rural colleges are intended to improve adult literacy and if so, have the Government taken any steps to open such colleges in every taluk? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Rural colleges are intended more for the spread of adult education than for adult literacy, because it pre-supposes that people who go to rural colleges must have pre-graduate study."

SRI B. ANANTACHAR :—" May I know if the Government can arrange a mobile itinerating band of men and women teachers to go about the State and see that eradication of illiteracy is speeded up? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" We have already provided five motor mobile vans and if philanthropic-minded and public-spirited bands of men and women teachers are available, these vans will be made available to them for their use."

SRI P. KAKKAN :—" As the present scale of stipend for the training school teachers is low, may I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government will raise the stipend in order to get more teachers? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Though this question does not arise exactly from the original question, I may say that it may be that the stipend is not adequate, yet that has not reduced the number of applicants seeking admission to training schools at all."

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District Handloom Advisory Committees.

* 37 Q.—SRI A. J. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to constitute District Handloom Advisory Committees in all the districts?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"Proposals for forming District Handloom Advisory Committees are under consideration."

SRI A. J. ARUNACHALAM:—"May I know, what has happened to the existing Advisory Committees in our State?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"There are no District Handloom Advisory Committees in all the districts."

SRI V. JAGGA RAJU:—"May I know the duties and functions of the proposed Handloom Advisory Committee?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"A separate question may be put."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Since the Committees have been abolished, most of the weavers are finding it very difficult to represent their grievances either to the Textile Commissioner or to the Collector. So, will the Government consider the desirability of reconstituting the Committees?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"I have just now answered that proposals for forming District Handloom Advisory Committees are under the consideration of the Government and as soon as the consideration is over, they will constitute Committees."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:—"May I draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that if wholesale and retail yarn dealers are included in these Committees, there is every likelihood of their mismanaging the whole thing? Therefore, may I request the Hon. Minister to see that only representatives of the handloom weavers are taken into these Committees?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is only a request to the Government."

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"Nominations of merchants were in respect of Yarn Advisory Committees but they are being abolished now."

Grant of land revenue remission to famine-affected areas.

* 38 Q.—SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a Government Order has been issued recently regarding the grant of land revenue remission to famine-affected areas; and

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(b) if so, whether a copy of the Government Order will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) A copy of G.O. Press No. 645, Revenue, dated 20th March 1951, is placed on the table of the House.

" Subsequent to the issue of the Government Order mentioned above, the Government have, at the instance of the Collectors concerned and on the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, extended the concessions sanctioned in the Government Order, (i) to all wet lands in South Arcot district as against only wet lands under tanks, (ii) to both wet and dry lands in some villages in Kandukur and Venkatagiri taluks and in Chundi Estate in Nellore district and (iii) to dry lands in Tirunavalur, Manalurpet and Ulundurpet firkas of Tirukoilur taluk and Rishivandiam firka of Kallakurichi taluk in South Arcot district. The Government have also sanctioned (1) the grant of remission of dry assessment and water-rate in respect of lands cultivated with wet crops under Toludur Project area in South Arcot district on the same scale as for wet lands and (2) the grant of remission to manavari lands on the same scale as for dry lands in all areas in respect of which special dry remission has been sanctioned."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:—"May I know the reason that has prompted the Government not to include commercial crops for the purpose of revision?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"We were advised by the local authorities on going into the question that there was no need and that the people could afford to pay."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"In view of the fact that most of the officials, in order to avoid remission, value the produce above four annas and even instruct their subordinates to estimate it at a higher value, may I ask, whether the Government propose to take any other steps, instead of relying upon these officials, to see whether crops have failed or not?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I must tell the hon. Member that I do not accept his premise that officials do the things that he mentioned and there is no need for any further answer to this question."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:—"In view of the fact that the growing of commercial crops will entail more expenses to the cultivator and if the crops fail, he will have to incur heavy losses, may I know whether the Government will re-consider the question and give some remission to the commercial crops also?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"According to the Government Order, dated 20th March 1951, it was open to the hon. Member to make representation to the Government if he felt that there was some additional need for remission. I take it that we have gone into the question and Collectors

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of various districts have also thoroughly gone into the question and they recommended to the Government through the Board of Revenue that the scale and type of remission that has been mentioned in the Government Order are satisfactory and enough to meet the needs."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" There is no provision in this Government Order for meeting an abnormal situation. May I, in this connexion, draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that they have failed to give remission in all cases of failure of crops due to adverse seasonal condition. What I mean to say is, there is a first sowing and the crop fails for want of rain: there is a second sowing, and the crop fails; then, for the third time there is a sowing and there is a four-anna crop raised. In such a case, the cultivator does not come under the benefit of this Government Order. So, I want Government to consider cases like this for purposes of remission."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, whenever there is a failure, remissions are granted under certain conditions. In the first year, if there had been a failure, certain remission would have been granted, but I do not really see, how anything could be specially provided for, when we have already provided for remission in each year of failure."

11-45 a.m. SRI M. R. APPA RAO :—" May I know whether relief is given to the flood affected areas in the West Godavari district also? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI :—" Sir, on account of the prevalence of famine in the villages as shown in the annexure, on the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, I see, Government have sanctioned some famine works. I want to have an assurance from the Government that the famine works sanctioned by them would be continued and would not be given up for want of funds? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" They will not be given up for want of funds."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether there is any specific area where due to failure of rain, commercial crops have been given remission of revenue? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" All the information, I have, has been furnished. I have nothing more to add."

Increase in the production of sugar.

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

- (a) the quantity of sugar required for the State per annum;
- (b) what percentage of the requirement is met from local production;

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(c) the average quantity imported per annum; and

(d) the steps taken to increase local production?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" (a) The quantity of sugar required for this State is about 120,000 tons per annum.

" (b) During normal times when there was no control over sugar, the percentage of sugar requirements met from local production was about 50 per cent. Under the existing controlled conditions, 65.5 per cent of the requirements is met from local production.

" (c) The average quantity of sugar imported during normal times is about 50 per cent of the demand, but, if the present control period is taken into consideration, it is not possible to give the average quantity imported per annum, as the control has been in force only for a short period. During 1950, 26,767.2 tons of sugar were allotted by the Government of India from North Indian factories. There were no imports from overseas during that year.

" (d) The following are the steps taken to increase the local production :—

(1) Supply of sugarcane to factories is ensured by reservation of cane areas.

(2) Creation of a free market for the sugar produced by sugar factories in excess of the quota fixed for each of them for supply to the Government for controlled distribution has encouraged factories to crush for longer periods.

(3) Propaganda by special staff in the improved methods of cane cultivation.

(4) Ten new sugar units have been permitted to be set up in this State. Of these, the Madura Sugars and Allied Products, Limited, Madurai, has started production. Two more factories, viz., the Andhra Sugars, Limited, Tanuku, and the Etikoppaka Co-operative Agriculture and Industrial Society are expected to start working in the next season.

(5) Five factories in the State have been allowed to expand their capacities and out of them four have already effected the expansion.

(6) The Government have prepared a Three-Year Plan for the consideration of the Planning Commission for intensive cultivation of sugarcane and for increasing sugar production."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" May I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of giving financial aid to those companies that come forward to produce more sugar in this State? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" We are not usually giving such aid to such companies; because such aid is given only to those industries which are able to support themselves."

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SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ Will Government please protect those local industries as against foreign industries? May I know what steps Government have been taking, what steps they have taken before and what steps they propose to take in future in that behalf? ”

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—“ They are gradually becoming self-supporting. I have already said what steps we are taking. Their stock position has increased with the rise in prices; and as local production increases, I am sure, foreign imports also would decrease.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—“ Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister to clause (c) of the question, may I ask him whether it is not a fact that the price offered for sugarcane especially in South Arcot is not sufficient and that there has been a representation to that effect from the growers? ”

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—“ That is probably a local complaint. Because some areas are allotted to certain factories they come to an arrangement with the local producers; it is a question of difference of local price, and I suppose it will be settled in due course.”

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ May I ask whether the Government are aware, that the price of sugar in the ‘ free sector ’ that is, in the sphere of what is offered over and above the controlled quantity, is Rs. 85 or Rs. 95 per bag above the control price of sugar; and if so, may I know what steps Government propose to take to see that there is reasonable parity between control price and ‘ free price ’ if I may call it so? ”

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—“ When production steps up, price in the open market will come down. So, I think in course of time, the price will adjust itself.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“ May I know whether, instead of encouraging the coming into existence of new sugar factories under private enterprise, which are earning huge profits (I am told the Vuyyur factory directors are earning lakhs every year), why not Government start their own factories; for it is admitted by the Hon. Minister that they are self-supporting; so, why not they start factories under Government auspices and earn huge profits, which will be available for the benefit of the entire State? ”

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—“ When private enterprise is able to do good business and manage well, I do not think there is any necessity for Government to interfere.”

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH :—“ May I know what steps Government have taken to protect the cottage industry of jaggery-making instead of helping these big industrial concerns? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ The hon. Member will put a separate question for that.”

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SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—“ Now that questions are over, may I know, Sir, whether I can put a short notice question? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ If the hon. Member wants to raise a short notice question, let him put it in writing and I shall pass it on to the concerned Minister.”

II.—MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I have to announce to the House that I have received the following Message, dated 20th August 1951, from His Excellency the Governor of Madras :—

‘ In pursuance of Article 207, Clause (1), read with Article 199, Clause (1), Sub-Clause (a) of the Constitution of India, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby give my recommendation to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras Irrigation (Betterment Contribution and Inclusion Fees Bill, 1951). ’ ”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“ Sir, I want to make a representation.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Whatever it is, let the hon. Member put it in writing and pass it on to me.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“ Sir, I want to know when the short notice question given notice of by my hon. Friend, Mr. Raghavayya, and myself will be taken up.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ It will be taken up to-morrow. The House will now proceed to the next item on the agenda.”

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

III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

- (1) THE MADRAS ESSENTIAL ARTICLES CONTROL AND REQUISITIONING (TEMPORARY POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill, 1951, and move—

‘ That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.’

“ Sir, this is only a measure for the extension of the existing law, which expires on the 30th September next. With a view to have continuity and also bring it in consonance with the legislation already passed by the Central Legislature, the proposal is to extend this legislation up to the end of December 1952. That means, the life of the present legislation should be extended by 15 months, that is, up to and inclusive of the 31st December 1952. The Central Act on the same subject, namely, the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946 (Central Act XXIV of 1946), has had its life extended up to the same date by Central Act LII of 1950. Sir, since the provisions of this Act have already been taken into consideration by this House sufficiently well on previous occasions and

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since there is not much time before the Bill to be passed and sent for approval of the President of the Union and to be placed on the Statute Book before the 1st October next, I request that the Bill may be taken into consideration immediately."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

' That the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.' "

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, this very bad Act is a legacy of the war-time, and so there is no meaning now in the Government coming to the Legislature and asking for its extension. It may be that the Central Government has asked this Government to have the life of this legislation extended for a further period. If I were in the Central Legislature, I would have opposed this legislation there."

SRI K. VARADACHARI :—" But without effect."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The hon. Member beside me says that our protests would have no effect. I submit the protests of the people whom we represent will have every effect. After all, the Ministers are not stones; they are human beings, as we all are; they know the difficulties of the people; they know how power under this Act has been misused; they know how the people are hard-pressed; they know to what amount of harassment the people are being subjected under this legislation. Sir, it is a piece of arbitrary legislation which gives powers to the Government to make what rules they like; those rules need not come up for discussion before this Assembly. Further, there is no right of appeal to a court; there is no judicial review over the various control orders issued by Government under this Act. Those orders vary from day to day; and they are being issued hourly, if I may say so. The House knows what amount of discontent prevails in this State about this legislation; and the discontent is increased on account of the way in which the regulations and orders issued under this Act are being worked. These orders have led to a great deal of corruption and have compelled even honest people to become corrupt. So, it is only proper for Government now to re-establish and maintain a high standard of public life. For that, the orders issued under this Act must cease to have force."

" Then, Sir, the Hon. Minister has not told us about the necessity for this legislation beyond the fact that the Central Act LII of 1950 has been passed. We would have been only glad if he had given some reasons for that. I ask him in the name of the suffering people, in the name of the suffering villagers under the rigours of the rules enforced under this legislation, why should we extend the life of this legislation? What is the necessity for this Government for requisitioning the articles mentioned in this legislation? Sir, under this Act, they are not to requisition houses;

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they are not to requisition property; they are not to requisition godowns; but they are to requisition from persons, whom the officers do not like, any amount of paddy which the officers require. Under the rules they have absolute discretion to do so, and they take care not to procure from persons who have got influence in the Secretariat or in the Collectorates. On the other hand, they procure from poor people, whom they squeeze, under these rules. So, I submit there is no real necessity for these rules, these controls and this legislation. They are very unnatural as they are a legacy of the war; they are an unnatural imposition upon the peaceful life of innocent people. Instead of passing this legislation, Government should raise the standard of public life; they should raise the standard of public morals; and sooner they do this, the better. So, I protest, Sir, very strongly against this Bill. I would ask the Hon. Minister to drop the Bill and that will show the mind of this Legislature to the Central Government. Instead of making vain representations to the Food Minister or the Deputy Food Minister of India, instead of depending on the Central Government for the removal of restrictions on the movement of foodgrains from district to district and instead of depending on them as regards what we should eat and how much we have to show our mind to them, I submit that by not passing this Bill this Government and the Legislature will be able to show their mind much better to the Government of India that they are against this unnatural system of life."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not have stood up to speak but for the observations made by the hon. Member opposite. The object of the Bill is to extend the life of the existing Act for a further period of fifteen months. Whether controls should be done away with completely is a debatable proposition and requires careful examination. The laws of control should be flexible so as to permit the removal of some controls when necessary, modification out of shape of existing controls and the reshaping of their administration to suit conditions in the country; they should not be rigid or inviolable. It is no use saying: 'Take away all controls and we shall be the happiest nation on earth.' Controls may not be necessary in some spheres and may be necessary in other spheres. In respect of food control, this State has made substantial modifications in rationing certain areas and even doing away with procurement in deficit districts. Personally, I think that this classification for purposes of procurement is wholly wrong and unjustified. What should have been done is that the surplus producers in all areas, surplus or deficit, should have been subjected to the same obligation. But I am not on that proposition now."

" Let us examine the control of iron and steel. I admit that the control is extremely defective. How can there be effective control over five lakhs of applications? Some of them may be for hundredweights and some may be for even tons. If we want to build houses rapidly, we must recast the administration of the

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control of iron and steel so as to ensure proper distribution. I would make the suggestion that all house-building at least in the towns should be done through a small body of engineering contractors who may be subjected to registration, and all the available supply should be placed in their hands after careful scrutiny of their capacity for work. It is easier to supervise five hundred people than five lakhs of applicants some of whom may take the steel and pass it on to their neighbours at a very high price. I know of very many cases of applicants for steel who have passed on practically one half of their allotment to their friends or neighbours with the result that those who got the quota obtained their requirements as practically free gifts from the Government. What I have made is only a suggestion and there may be practical difficulties in working it. I do not say that my suggestion is the only fool-proof method. But a way must be devised to reduce the field of administration of control, so that the control may be effective. Let the Government pass this Bill. May I make one suggestion? Let there be some association of popular opinion in the administration of these controls. It is better to review the administration from time to time at monthly meetings or quarterly meetings if monthly meetings are not convenient by a committee consisting of some Members of the Legislature and some persons in business or trade. If complaints are forthcoming, let the committee examine them and suggest suitable modifications on the basis of the examination. Now there is no such body as I have proposed. Ministers and the officers concerned are the only people who know the administration. They may have the staff; but they have not the time and other facilities for a detailed examination of the results of the administration of controls. This is a very important matter. I hope the Hon. Minister will be agreeable to constitute a committee on the lines which I have suggested.

"I wholeheartedly support the Bill."

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am of opinion that so long as certain essential articles are in short supply, it is the bounden duty of any Government to control their production and distribution. No responsible Government worth the name can afford to leave things in a chaotic condition and allow articles in short supply which are essential for the life of the community to be appropriated by persons of influence and wealth. The shortage of certain essential articles is an admitted fact and therefore their production and distribution become necessary. If some of the articles cease to be in short supply, the control over them can be removed. While I concede this as a matter of principle, there is the other aspect, that the Government should carry out the control effectively and justly. That there have been many abuses of the powers of the Government is the story going round throughout the country. That some offenders are detected and punished is no credit at all. It is common knowledge that most of the offenders go scot-free. Even some honest people experience difficulties in

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the matter of controls. Several rules and regulations passed under the Act have not been given due publicity and innocent people have been punished for contravening them. I will give one instance. Under the Central Act of 1946, the Provincial Government are vested with the power to regulate the transport of foodgrains and they have delegated that power to the District Collector. In many districts, the Collectors have prohibited the transport of foodgrains after sunset and before sunrise and this order has been in force from 1947. Strange to say, most of the people do not know the existence of this order. People hand over grains or paddy to lorry drivers for transport, and they are transported during the prohibited hours not knowing that they are prohibited hours. The owner and the driver of the lorry are punished. Confiscation of the article follows conviction unless the magistrate directs that it need not be confiscated. Thus the owner of the paddy or grain loses his goods. This is a very serious matter.

"In many cases paddy was confiscated by the Government. No doubt when the Government make rules they are publishing them in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and the District Collectors are publishing the rules in the District Gazettes. But those rules are not brought home to the persons concerned in the matter. I wish that the Government, whenever they make rules, or the District Collectors on behalf of the Government make rules, give them due publicity. Many persons have suffered because they did not know the rules. I am one of those who believe that so long as an article is in short supply, it is the bounden duty of the Government to requisition, control and distribute it equitably in order that the life of the community may be maintained. At the same time, I say that it is equally the bounden duty of the Government to see that powers are not abused, and that persons do not contravene the rules. Sufficient publicity should be given to the rules. It is true, as the hon. Member Mr. Viswanathan¹ stated, that these controls have the tendency of making the citizens involved. The people try to overcome these controls by questionable methods. I wish no such occasion arose at all. It is true that the standard of morality has gone down very much not only amongst the persons who administer the controls but also amongst the people who are concerned in the matter. With these remarks, Sir, I support the motion."

* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question whether controls should be retained or abolished is still a debatable one. Even in the All-India Congress Committee people hold different views. The chief defect of controls has been that there has been no proper, efficient and just administration of this department. That is the complaint of the people. Without controls of some sort, it may be difficult to procure the articles necessary for the life and comfort of the community. Yet, the experiences of the administration of controls have been so bitter that many people would rather like to suffer for want of controls than undergo

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the sufferings which the system entails. I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to what is going on in the Vijayavada Town. What is the use of making any complaints? To whom are we to complain? Is there anybody to take notice of our complaints and take action? This is the real position. There is this bitterness everywhere. People are given six ounces ration. But what about the other six? One ounce of supplementary ration is being given. Days and months are passing on like this. Is this not a callous administration? Is it not the callousness of the officers? What shall we do? The bitterness has gone very deep into the hearts of the people. As soon as jaggery was controlled, jaggery prices went up, the article disappeared, and the merchants were hiding everything in their godowns in dark rooms. The Government became helpless. So, what is the use of keeping controls unless the Government are able to carry on the administration for the health and happiness of the people, and make articles available to the people at proper prices and in a just manner? Everywhere there is suffering because of controls. That is the curse. In theory we have to support controls, because if there are no controls, and if deficit areas do not get food from surplus areas, the people in deficit areas will suffer and starve. They are at least getting some quantity now. The whole difficulty is there because of the maladministration of this department, and I am sorry I have to express my strong opinions on this matter. This is one of the things that has made the Congress Government become very unpopular among the masses, the poor and the helpless. If the Hon. Minister's office and his portfolio are worth anything, he must take immediate and strong measures to put a stop to corruption and transfer the officers that are responsible. He should go into these matters sitting, not at headquarters in Fort St. George and on the Treasury Bench, but in the various places outside Fort St. George, and make enquiries whether the controls are being properly administered by the officers concerned. As soon as complaints are received, the officers must take action and punish the persons responsible. Controls, official corruption, and blackmarketing have all combined together. I hear complaints everyday that the Civil Supplies department lorries are bringing rice in bags and selling them in the streets in darkness, whereas small headloads are being caught by the Police. When the Police catch these headloads, what do they do with those headloads? They take the rice for their consumption. That is the best way of not putting up cases. Such things are going on. Scandals are going on. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to these things. As regards procurement, the bigger men are let off and the smaller fry are being visited by these officers. They are not visits but visitations to give more and more. These poor ryots are complaining. In that way blackmarketing is going on. Rice is available in plenty in the blackmarket. But the poor people are suffering because they are unable to pay the high price. Why do not the Government supply what they promise to supply? Do the Government pay any

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attention to the complaints made by the public? Do these complaints ever reach Fort St. George or the Civil Supplies Commissioner's office? This is the suffering of the people. So, controls have become a curse, although we have to support the controls. I have no other alternative than to support this Bill."

JANAB MOHAMED RAFEEUDDIN AHMAD ANSARI:—

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is certainly not a very pleasant duty to support this Bill, because it is a Bill which seeks to interfere with the ordinary life of the people and the ordinary life of the merchant community, and it imposes artificial restrictions upon the normal channels of trade. Therefore, it should be our endeavour to bring this type of legislation to an end as early as possible. It should be also our endeavour to make the rigour of this legislation to be felt, as less as possible, on the people. It is my suggestion that the Government should make the minimum use of this legislation, and should include in its orbit the minimum number of essential articles that they think are necessary. It should, therefore, be our endeavour to gradually decontrol everything so that life may go on in the normal manner in the country. It is certainly a very healthy thing to make the people feel that these controls are going to come to an end at some time or other. The people should be made to feel that this is not a permanent feature of the life of the country. Therefore, my suggestion to the Government is to so work this legislation as to impress upon the people that it is only a temporary piece of legislation which will come to a close as early as possible.

"With regard to the various defects in the administration of controls, the maladministration of price controls, the requisitioning of essential articles and the non-availability of essential articles to those who are in need of them, hon. Members have spoken already. Probably the Government also are aware of them. I do not want to waste the time of the House by enlarging upon the same ideas. But I would like to place one idea before the Government for their consideration. It is an idea which I have got from reading the papers. In the Rajasthan State, it was reported in the papers, they have introduced a system by which the Government undertake to supply to the people a minimum quantity of foodgrains, say, 2 ounces or 4 ounces of rice per adult will be given to all people, and the people will be allowed to get their balance of requirements in the open market. At present what happens is this. And it is a matter of common knowledge that nobody is living on the quantity of foodgrains that is issued to him by the Government. Nobody is sustaining himself on the six ounces ration that is given to him. It is common knowledge that every one is getting or augmenting his supplies from the blackmarket. The various hardships that are being caused to the people on account of these controls are also quite well known. How the ordinary people get caught in trying to get a few more ounces of rice for their sustenance is also well known. We know how these people are prosecuted. I ask the Government: Why not you take a bold step and say that it is not

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the business of the Government,—it is not possible, under the circumstances—to guarantee the full quota of foodgrains to the people; the business of the Government is to see that a minimum quantity of rice, say, 2 ounces or 4 ounces, is given to the people at the fair price, and to leave them to purchase their extra requirements in the open market? Let not the Government restrict the movement of foodgrains from district to district or from taluk to taluk. Let there be free movement. After all they have got their powers of procurement. Whatever the Government require, they can have by virtue of the powers they have. They can procure from the surplus producers and use the surplus foodgrains for giving the minimum quantity to the people. The Government can then allow the producers to sell the extra quantity wherever they want. After all, Sir, this is nothing unnatural. These articles will move in the normal way. Where there is demand, there the foodgrains will go. Where there is extra supply, then from that place the articles will go to the deficit area. The Government can certainly impose price control. The argument will be that if such movement is unchecked, and if people are allowed to purchase in the open market, then the price will go up. But the Government have got the power to exercise control over prices. The Government can fix the price and see that the articles are not sold in excess of the price fixed. The Government may try this experiment and see whether it works or not. This idea has been actually carried out in Rajasthan State, and I believe they are working it properly. Why not this Government also make an attempt in that direction? I would urge upon the Government to give serious consideration to this proposition so that they may know by experience the various defects of this system and also find out the remedies for them."

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SRI B. ANANTACHAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, but for the part which my hon. Friend, Sri Varadachari, played in intervening in this debate, I would not be speaking now. My first complaint against the extension of this Bill is about the word 'essential'. If it is a case of control, it cannot include small articles like chillies and pepper which certainly ought to be outside the scope of control of essential articles. The simpler form would be a Control Act. If the Government were to bring such a legislation, it would have been better. They seem to forget the boundary or the thin line of difference between the essential and the non-essential articles coming within the purview of this Bill.

"One other point is this. There are in this matter two Acts governing us, viz., the Central Act of 1946 and our own State Act of 1949. I have read some provisions of both the Acts and I find that the definitions are overlapping and sometimes they are confusing. The matter is taken before the Courts for decision. A lot of doubt is raised about these things. The definition of sugar, for example, under the Central Act of 1946 and the notifications promulgated in pursuance of that Act by the Government of India, are different from that given out in many of the notifications of the

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State Government in pursuance of our own Act. The definition of 'jaggery' is vague. Some of these small things in the State Act which might come into conflict with the Central Act might be corrected. This is just the time for it when the Government think of reviewing the position and when they feel that there is a necessity for the continuance of control of essential or non-essential articles. It is better that we try to see whether the Act is really in conformity with the Central Act or whether it needs a change.

"Then, Sir, as the hon. Gentleman, Janab Rafeeuddin Ansari, suggested, we have in a way tested the efficacy and utility of control and free market in the case of sugar. The surplus sugar is sought to be sold in the free market along with the controlled quantity of sugar sold at the controlled rate. That has proved successful in maximising sugar production in our State. The Hon. Minister also was saying that we had almost reached the self-sufficiency limit with regard to the production of sugar in our State. If that experiment has proved successful, the same experiment may be tried with regard to other food articles also. If there is some kind of a surplus grown by the producers of foodgrains, it is now treated as surplus for procurement purposes and taken at a controlled rate which means an abnormally low rate or uneconomic rate for the producers. If the advantage can be given to the sugar manufacturers to sell the sugar at the free market rate, a similar concession might be given to the foodgrain producers also. This experiment might be tried at least on a small scale in some limited areas. That would certainly help us to a very great extent and it might maximise food production also, particularly in the matter of rice. We seem to be feeling that rice is in very short supply in our State. Everybody thinks of rice and nothing else. We are not accustomed to non-rice articles. Some of us might take to them but the ordinary labourer and the working class people might have a distaste for them. In the case of rice, paddy and millets, where there is shortage, we can fix some kind of an average quantity for the whole State or a particular area and with regard to the surplus above that limit, the producer may be given 16 or 20 ounces or any quantity he requires for the consumption of himself and his family. He may also be permitted to sell that surplus in the open market at any rate that his produce gets him.

"The other thing that I was anxious to point out for the consideration of the Government is this. This is a process, as my hon. Friend says, of decontrol with regard to certain matters. There are also price control, movement control and many other kinds of control. We are really getting vexed at these controls, but that is a different matter. Before the schedule of these essential articles is thought out, as was suggested by another hon. Member, it is better the whole thing is reviewed on a district to district or regional basis, if not on a State basis. Some of these articles are called essential articles in some parts of the State and non-essential articles in some other parts; some articles are called surplus and others non-surplus. With regard to the inclusion of essential articles, my point

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is that the word 'essential' might be removed. Let us not quarrel about the word 'essential'; let us make no distinction between essential and non-essential articles. If the Government think that essential articles ought to mean essential articles, then we have got to think out in a stricter, rigorous and legal sphere and see that suitable amendments are made to the schedule whenever necessary."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really sorry that the Government have thought it fit to come forward with this Amending Bill to extend the life of the Act which regulates the control of essential articles. As in the case of control of rents of houses, I believe, that the Government who are to-day taking many things for granted, should hold periodical enquiries and see whether any change has come about or whether the existing conditions continue necessitating the extension of these controls. They must find out what articles require to be controlled still and what articles do not require to be controlled, but, on the other hand, require to be decontrolled immediately. Have the Government got any data with regard to these fundamental aspects of the question? Have they information to the effect that they should continue control so far as sugar is concerned? The Government of India have made it possible for the sugar manufacturers to produce enough sugar in the country with the result that there is no need for any control whatsoever. I know that there will be need for price control but control over supply of sugar is not necessary.

"Sir, we know that sugar is a commodity which is not used by all classes of people in the country. The average man does not require the same quantity of sugar as a person belonging to the higher middle class. There are many people who do not take the rationed quantity of sugar at all. They do not require it and, therefore, that sugar is either sold in the blackmarket by the ration shop-keeper or the person to whom ration card is given takes it from the ration shop and sells it in the blackmarket. To that extent, I am sure 50 per cent of the quantity of sugar stored by these ration shop-keepers goes into the blackmarket in one way or the other. Have the Government taken the trouble of finding out how this control is administered and whether all the sugar and foodgrains supplied to the ration shops reach the people for whom they are intended or whether they are reserved by the ration shop-keepers as well as by those who are not in a position to use all the grains that are made available to them through ration cards? Have they cared to find out whether these essential articles are not misused or not used at all by the people for whom they are intended? The same thing can be said of foodgrains also. I know that there is considerable shortage of foodgrains in the State but that does not mean that there should be complete control. I am glad that the Government of Madras have been able to revise their policy so far as foodgrain control is concerned. They have introduced decontrol in some areas with the result that people are in a position to get foodgrains in addition to what they are given through relief shops. If the Government prevent the sale of foodgrains in the open market

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in these areas, I am sure the people will starve. If the so-called blackmarket in regard to foodgrains is put down with an iron hand and if no person is permitted to sell foodgrains in the City of Madras and other places, certainly people will have to starve, for they cannot get on with the foodgrains that are made available to them by the Government. By extending this law, the Government are taking a great responsibility on themselves. They bind themselves to supply *pro rata* foodgrains, sugar and other articles which are supposed to be essential. I am afraid that the Government, when they make bold to take this responsibility, have to realize that they should be in a position to discharge that responsibility. In the past although the Government took upon themselves the responsibility of these controls, they have not been able to exercise their authority in such a way as to see that these controls are administered in the interests of the people and not of the agents employed by them, both official and non-official, who have been taking the place of the unwanted blackmarketers. In this way, if one class of blackmarketers is eliminated, another class of blackmarketers is substituted in the shape of officials and non-officials. I do not know whether the Government would like to continue this unfortunate state of affairs. Should the Government undertake this responsibility and be not in a position to exercise their authority to see that these controls are real and effectual? If they are going to be unreal and if the Government are going to enrich a class of people different from that of the merchants, they will be certainly taking too much of a responsibility upon themselves with the result that the people do not get in sufficient quantity the articles that are essential for their life.

"Then, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi had long ago advised the Governments both at the Centre and in the States to decontrol many of the things. I wish our Governments followed that wise advice given by that great sage. But the Government of Madras as well as the Government of India, without realizing their responsibility, are going on controlling many of the articles. I would urge that there must be decontrol, with respect to many of the articles. So far as foodgrains are concerned, I am not prepared to say that there should be complete decontrol immediately. They must be gradually decontrolled so that the people may not suffer. But with regard to all other articles, such as sugar, cloth, etc., the Government can very easily introduce decontrol, here and now. If this is done, proper trade channels will come into being and prices will adjust themselves according to the economic conditions of the people and their purchasing capacity. I think it is time that the Government gave up control so far as non-essential articles are concerned. Arguments may be advanced by the Minister-in-charge that the Government were helpless and they were not in a position to introduce decontrol as the Government of India were compelling them to continue controls with regard to sugar and things like that. I wish it was possible for the State Government to tell the Government of India that the State Government should have autonomy at least in regard to some of the articles. The State Government should

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not simply obey the Central Government as slaves in regard to all matters. If they do so, the result will be that the poor people of the State will be put to untold misery and suffering. The Madras Government are responsible to the people of this State. It is true that we have a Central Government and they order and centralize certain things. But, I should point out that there is a limit to everything. There is a limit to autocracy, there is a limit to centralization and there is a limit to the authority, which should be exercised with great care and responsibility. I would appeal to the Madras Government to resist the Government of India and tell them that they are not now prepared to slavishly obey all the orders passed by them and that if they do so the people of the State would suffer. So, in the interests of the people of the State, they should fight out and tell the Government of India that some of the articles which are now controlled should be decontrolled."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid that I could not support the provisions of this Bill entirely. In fact, I am one for decontrolling at least certain commodities. It was my privilege to move on the floor of this House for decontrolling and for abolition of procurement in the rural parts. It had support in the House so far as speeches were concerned and fell through when voting was demanded. A big hue and cry was raised about the shortage of foodgrains and the suffering that would ensue in the villages. I recollect that I then thought that I have blundered in my judgment. I now feel that I have done a great service to the rural population in asking and pressing for my amendment to decontrol in the rural parts. Sir, people like me who are attached to and linked with the rural population very well understand the benefit that this rural de-rationing has conferred on the villagers. They are happy to a great extent apparently and materially. They are now free from the harassment of the procurement officers. They are now free to move foodgrains from one place to another. Corruption and bribery that existed during the control period in the rural areas have completely disappeared. Together with these, the harassment to which the villagers were subjected to, has also disappeared.

"Just like decontrol in rural areas, which on a previous occasion I advocated, I have now come forward to make the suggestion that decontrol may be tried so far as rice is concerned in this State. It is said that rice is in short supply and that there is such a shortage as to warrant the supply of only 4 ounces of rice to every adult. I am afraid that it is wrong statistics. Complaints have been made in this house that there is blackmarketing, and rice is available in large quantities in blackmarket. So, I am unable to believe that we are in such great short supply as some people suggest. By this process of control, the Government will be making everything scarce with the result that there will be shortage of all articles, which are essential for the life of the people. I would very much request the Government to consider whether it would not be advisable to decontrol rice so far as it is produced in this State. Let

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them control imported rice and distribute it among the people in deficit areas. That would be a very reasonable arrangement. Having seen that control has not eased the situation and at every time it has really involved the Government in great strain and made them face serious bottlenecks and also gave some trouble or other to the citizens, I feel that the method of decontrolling at least rice, which is supposed to be in short supply in this State, must be tried and that rationing and distribution must be adopted only in regard to imported rice. With these observations, I partially support the Bill."

MR. SPEAKER:—"As a large number of hon. Members wish to speak on this Bill, I fix five minutes for each speech."

* SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL:—"கனம் அக்கிராசனாதிபதி அவர்களே! கண்டிரோல் சட்டத்தின் ஆயுளை நீடிக்கச் செய்ய இப்போது கெண்டிரோலுக்கு இந்த திருத்தச் சட்டத்தின் பேரில் இரண்டொரு வாரத்தை சொல்லுகின்றேன். இந்த நாட்டில் கண்டிரோல் இருப்பதனால் நமக்கு எல்லாவிதமான கஷ்டங்களும் அதிகமாகியிருக்கின்றன என்பது கண்கூடாக நாம் எல்லோரும் கண்ட விஷயம். இந்த சனப்பயில் இன்று எனக்கு முன் பேசிய ஒவ்வொருவரும் இதையே தான் எடுத்துச் சொல்லி வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்தக் கண்டிரோல் சட்டத்தின் ஆயுளை நீடிக்க வேண்டியதின் அவசியம் என்னவென்றால் இந்தச் சட்டசபை வெகு சீக்கிரத்தில் முடிவு அடையப் போகின்றது. அதோடு செப்டம்பர் மாதம் 30-ம் தேதியுடன் இந்தக் கண்டிரோல் சட்டத்தின் ஆயுளும் முடிவடைகிறது. ஆகையால் தான் இந்தச் சட்டத்தின் ஆயுளை இப்போது நீடிக்க வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது என்று உணவு மந்திரி அவர்களால் இந்தச் சட்டம் பிரேரேபிக்கப் பட்டிருக்கிறது. இந்தத் திருத்தச் சட்டத்தின் மூலம் இன்னும் 15 மாதங்கள் இந்தக் கண்டிரோல் சட்டத்தின் ஆயுள் நீடிக்கப் படுகிறது. இந்தச் சட்டத்தின் ஆயுளை ஏன் இன்னும் 15 மாத காலங்கள் நீடிக்கச் செய்யவேண்டும்? இன்னும் 6 மாத காலத்திற்கு அதன் ஆயுளை நீடித்தால் பொதுமக்கள் என்பதைச் சற்று யோசிக்குமாறு நான் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். நம்முடைய கொள்கை இந்தக் கண்டிரோல்கள் நம் நாட்டில் சாஸ்வதமாக இருக்கும்படி செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதில்லை. இன்று வெளியே எங்கு போய் பார்த்தாலும் நூற்றுக்கு நூறு பேர்களும் கண்டிரோலை ஒழிக்க வேண்டுமென்று எண்ணமுடைய மனிதர்களாகத்தான் இருக்கிறார்கள். கண்டிரோல்களை எடுத்துவிடவேண்டுமென்பதே பொது ஜனங்களிடையே அபிப்பிராயமாக இருக்கிறது என்பதை நாம் எல்லோரும் அறிந்துகொள்ள வேண்டும். கனம் உணவு மந்திரி அவர்களும் இதை அறிந்துகொள்ள வேண்டும். இந்தக் கண்டிரோல் இருப்பதனால் இன்று ஜனங்கள் செலவு மாக இருக்கிறார்கள் என்று நாம் யாரும் எண்ணிக்கொண்டு விடக்கூடாது. இந்தக் கண்டிரோல் ஏற்பட்ட பிறகு ஒரு தப்பான வழியிலேயே ஜனங்கள் எல்லோரும் செல்லக்கூடிய நிர்ப்பந்தம் ஏற்பட்டுவிட்டது. எல்லோரும் பிளாக் மார்க்கெட்டில் வியாபாரம் செய்கிறார்கள். கொள்ளை வாய்ப்பும் சம்பாதிக்கிறார்கள். ஜனங்கள் 'சாமான்கள் கிடைக்கவில்லை, கிடைக்கவில்லை' யென்ற கூச்சல் போடும் போது அவர்கள் சாமான்களைப் பதுக்கிக் கொள்ள மார்க்கெட்டில் வியாபாரம் செய்கிறார்கள். இது எங்கும் நடந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது என்பது நம் எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும். இந்தக் கண்டிரோல்கள் இருப்பதன் காரணமாகத்தான் பல பேர்களுக்கு கெட்ட பெயர் ஏற்படுகிறது. பல வியாபாரிகளுக்கும் கெட்ட பெயர் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. வாங்குகிறவர்களுக்கும் சொல்ல முடியாத கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்பட்டு இருக்கின்றன. ஏதாவது ஒரு கட்டையில் கண்டிரோல் செய்யப்பட்ட சாமான்கள் ஏதாவது ஒன்றை, உதாரணமாக வெல்லத்தைப் போய்க் கேட்டால் 'வெல்லம் ஒரு மூட்டை வந்தது. அது காலியாகிவிட்டது. அப்புறம் தான் வரும். அதுவும்

[Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal] [28th August 1951]

எப்போது வருமென்று சொல்லமுடியாது என்று கடைக்காரன் சொல்லி விடுகிறான். ஒரு வீசை கண்டிரோல் வெல்லம் விலை 13½ அணு என்றால், பக்கத்துக் கடைக்காரன் உங்களுக்கு எவ்வளவு வீசை வெல்லம் வேண்டும். வெல்லம் ஒரு வீசை 1 ரூபாய். உங்களுக்கு எவ்வளவு வீசை வேண்டுமானாலும் தருகிறேன் என்று சொல்லுகிறான். இம்மாதிரி சகல சாமான்களையும் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளுங்கள். கண்டிரோல் செய்யப் பட்ட சாமான்கள் ஒன்றுவது கண்டிரோல் செய்யப்பட்ட விலைக்குக் கிடைப்பதேயில்லை. எல்லாம் கள்ள மார்க்கெட்டில் தான் வாங்க வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. **Luxury** சாமான்களின் விலை எப்படி வேண்டுமானாலும் போகட்டும். அத்தியாவசியமான சாமான்களையே எடுத்துக் கொள்ளுங்கள். ஒவ்வொரு ஆகட்டும், ஹார்பிக்ஸ் ஆகட்டும் ஒன்றுவது கண்டிரோல் ரேட்டிற்கு மார்க்கெட்டில் வாங்கவே முடியவில்லை. வாழ்க்கைக்கு அத்தியாவசியமான சாமான்களின் மீதுள்ள கண்டிரோல்களை யெல்லாம் எடுத்து விடவேண்டுமென்பது தான் நம்முடைய சர்க்காரின் கொள்கையென்பதை நாம் மனதில் வைத்துக்கொண்டு இந்த திருத்தச் சட்டத்தின்மூலமாக கண்டிரோல்களின் ஆயுள்காலத்தை இன்னும் குறைவாகவே நிர்ணயிக்கவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த கண்டிரோல் இருப்பதின் காரணமாகத்தான் மனிதர்கள் ஒருவரை ஒருவர் எமர்ஜென்சி நிறுத்தவதும் உள்வாங்கலாக நானுக்கு நான் ஆகிக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். சர்வ சாதாரணமான, குது வது தெரியாத நல்ல குணமுள்ள மனிதர்கள் கூட, இன்று “கண்டிரோல் ரேட்டில் சாமான்களை விற்பனை நமக்கு லாபம் வராது, நமக்கு லாபம் குறைவாகவே கிடைக்கும், கண்டிரோல்படி அல்லாமல் கள்ளமார்க்கெட்டில் வியாபாரம் செய்ய ஆரம்பிக்கிறார்கள். அதனால் இந்தக் கண்டிரோல் சட்டம் நல்லவர்களையும் கூட கெட்டவர்களாக உதவுகிறது என்று நான் சொல்லப் பிரியப்படுகிறேன். கள்ளமார்க்கெட்டையே ஒழிக்கவேண்டுமென்று நாம் இதற்கு முன்னால் பல முறைகள் இந்தச் சபையில் பேசியிருக்கிறோம். இப்போது கள்ளமார்க்கெட்டை ஒழிக்கவும், கள்ளமார்க்கெட்டில் வியாபாரம் செய்கிறவர்கள், அந்தச் சாமான்களை வாங்குகிறவர்கள் இவர்களை ஒழிக்கவும் நிச்சயமாக கண்டிரோல்களை ஒழித்தால்தான் முடியும் என்பது என் அபிப்பிராயம். இந்த கண்டிரோல் ஒழிக்கும் விஷயத்தில் எனக்கு முன் பேசிய நண்பர் கனம் N. S. வரதாச்சாரி அவர்கள் நன்றாக எடுத்துச் சொன்னார்கள். ஆபீசர்களில் சிலரையும், ஆபீசர்கள் அல்லாத போது ஜனங்களில் சிலரையும் ஒன்றுகூடச் சேர்த்து ஒரு expert கமிட்டியை அமைத்து, ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லாவிற்கும், ஒவ்வொரு தாலுகாவிற்கும் ஒரு standing கமிட்டியை நிறுவி அக்கமிட்டி இரண்டு மாதத்திற்கு ஒருதரம், மூன்று மாதத்திற்கு ஒருதரம் பல இடங்களுக்குச் சென்று அங்கேயுள்ள நிலைமைகளையும், மக்களின் அபிப்பிராயங்களையும் தெரிந்துகொண்டு அவைகளை மத்திய சர்க்காருக்குச் சொல்ல வேண்டியது இந்த கவர்மெண்டினுடைய முக்கியமான கடமையாகும். உணவு மந்திரி அவர்கள் இதற்கு வேண்டிய சிரத்தையையும், அக்கரையையும் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளாமல் “இந்த கவர்மெண்டிடம் அதிகாரம் ஒன்றுமேயில்லை, கண்டிரோல்களை நாம் இஷ்டம்போல், மத்திய சர்க்காரைக் கேட்காமல் எடுக்கமுடியாது, கண்டிரோல்களை எடுக்கச் சொல்லி மத்திய சர்க்காரிடம் சொன்னாலும் அதற்கு அவர்கள் இஷ்டப்பட மாட்டார்கள்” என்று சொல்லுவதில் பிரயோசனம் இல்லை. பொது ஜனங்களுடைய அபிப்பிராயம் எப்படி இருக்கிறது என்று விஷயத்தை நங்கள் உங்களிடம் தெரிவிக்கிறோம். நங்கள் இந்த விஷயத்தை மத்திய சர்க்காரிடம் நன்றாக எடுத்துச் சொல்லி, இந்த கண்டிரோல்களை இன்னும் ஆறு மாதங்களுக்கு மேல் நீடிக்கச் செய்தால் பொது ஜனங்களிடமிருந்து இன்னும் திட்டாட்டமாகப் போய்விடுமென்ற விஷயத்தை வற்புறுத்தி ஆறு மாத காலத்திற்குள் கண்டிரோல்கள் யாவையும் எடுக்க முயற்சிக்க வேண்டும். அப்போதுதான் பதுக்கல் வியாபாரத்தை ஒழிக்க முடியும். இந்த கண்டிரோல்கள் வந்த பின்னர் இந்த பதுக்கல் வியாபாரமானது மிகவும் அதிகமாகியிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் நம்முடைய நாட்டில் பதுக்கல்

1 p.m.

28th August 1951] [Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal]

வியாபாரமானது வெகுநாளாகவே இருந்துகொண்டுதான் வருகிறது. அதற்கு ஒரு உதாரணம் சொல்லுகின்றேன். கதர் விஷயத்தை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளுங்கள். அகில இந்திய பாரத சர்க்கார் சங்கத்தில் கதர் துணி வியாபாரம் செய்கிறார்கள். கதர் தோன்றிய காலத்திலிருந்தே அகில இந்திய பாரத சர்க்கார் சங்கத்தில் கதர் துணி விற்பனை செய்வதைப் போலவே சில இதர கடைகளிலும் அந்த விலைக்குச் சற்று கூடலோ, குறைத்தோ கதர் வியாபாரம் செய்துகொண்டுதான் வருகிறார்கள். அதையும் பலர் வாங்கி உடுத்திக்கொண்டுதான் வருகிறார்கள். அதைப் போலவே எந்த சாமான்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்டாலும் கண்டிரோல் விலையை விட கூட பணம் கொடுக்கத் தயாராக இருந்தால் வெளியிலே எந்த விதமான சிரமமுமின்றி வாங்கிக்கொள்ள முடிகிறது. ஆகையால் கண்டிரோல்களையே எடுத்து விட்டால் இவர்கள் எல்லோரும் வியாபாரம் செய்ய முடியும். அதனால் பயந்து கொண்டு வியாபாரம் செய்யாமல் தாராளமாக வியாபாரம் செய்வார்கள். உலகத்தில் ஜனங்கள் எல்லோரையும் நாம் ஆதரிக்க வேண்டியவர்களாக இருக்கிறோம். ஆகையால்தான் கண்டிரோல்களை எடுத்துவிடவேண்டுமென்பது ஜனங்களின் கொள்கை.

1 p.m.

“இப்போது சர்க்கரையைப் பற்றி சொன்னால் சர்க்கார் சர்க்கரை விலையை ஒரு வீசை 1½ ரூபாயாக கண்டிரோல் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்றால் ஒரு வீசைக்கு 2 ரூபாய், 2½ ரூபாய் கொடுத்தால் ஏராளமான சர்க்கரை வெளியே கிடைக்கிறது. வியாபாரிகளும் விற்பனையைச் செய்கிறார்கள். அரிசி படி 1½ ரூபாயாக இந்த நகரத்திலேயே விற்பனை செய்கிறார்கள். அதை வாங்கித்தான் ஜனங்கள் சாப்பிட்டு ஜீவித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் தவிர சர்க்கார் கண்டிரோலில் தரும் அரிசியைக் கொண்டு ஜீவிக்கவில்லை. கண்டிரோலில்போடும் அரிசியை சமைத்து நாயிக்குப்போட்டால்கூட அது சாப்பிடாது. அவ்வளவு அசத்தமானதாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் கண்டிரோல்களில் சர்க்கார் சாமான்களைக் கொடுப்பதாக இருந்தாலும் அவைகளை நல்ல நிலைமையில் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். ஆகையால் எப்படியும் இந்த கண்டிரோல்களை எடுத்துவிடவேண்டுமென்ற எண்ணத்தை வைத்துக் கொண்டு இந்த திருத்தச் சட்டத்தின் ஆயுளை 15 மாதங்களாக நீடிக்காமல் இன்னும் குறைந்த காலமாகவே நீடிக்கச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a few observations on the Bill that has been brought forward by the Hon. the Minister for Food. There has been a great deal of agitation going on in the country both for control and de-control. But in the rural parts of the country where the agriculturists are greatly affected by these controls, there is a strong feeling that controls should not be enforced so far as the producer is concerned. The Government have been proclaiming that controls benefit the people and, therefore, they have brought in this measure for extending their life. But I regret to say that the Government have failed to understand the real difficulties of the people. As regards control of food articles, I feel that the agriculturist has not been treated fairly by the Government. The prices that have been fixed for food articles are so low that the agriculturist is very reluctant to grow food crops. If the Government will only institute an enquiry into the system of distribution now in vogue and also into the prices offered for food crops in the country, they will immediately realize that the agriculturist in raising food crops does not at all benefit. It is for this reason that he is driven to the need of raising commercial crops. When he does so, unfortunately he

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is criticised by the people and is termed avaricious. The Government must, therefore, bear in mind the necessity of affording reasonable encouragement to the agriculturist by way of fair prices. The present prices need an upward revision. To-day the agriculturist is hit hard by some of the hasty measures and policies of the Government. I do not know whether the entire control is administered by our Government or the Government of India have any hand in it. Sir, a few days ago, there was an announcement that export of chillies had been stopped. This has resulted in large stocks accumulating here and the producer who has raised these is faced with great difficulties. He will incur heavy loss. I do not know what will be the fate of persons who have grown crops like groundnut, etc., when they are face to face with a legislation to tax commercial crops. I would request the Government to encourage the agriculturist with better prices so that he may himself volunteer to grow foodcrops in the place of commercial crops. No amount of control and restrictions will end black-marketing. The agriculturist must be enabled to reap the fruits of his labour. While supporting the Bill, I would once more request the Government to consider this aspect of the question, viz., encouragement to the agriculturist to grow foodcrops."

* Sri D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quite realize the plight of the Hon. the Minister for Food and sympathise with him for the awkward situation in which he finds himself to-day. I know that he realizes the gravity of the situation and that he will only be too glad to remove controls altogether if copious supplies of food were forthcoming. Sir, after all is said and done, we have to face the present situation. It has brought about universal unpopularity for the Government. Every section of the community is feeling that controls have defeated the very object for which they came into force and have become practically a bug-bear and a source of utter demoralization of the community, from the richest to the lowest in the strata of society. They have given room to people to pilfer stocks of foodgrains and carry them from station to station in the railway trains for illicit sale so that they may be assured of their existence. Such activities help the underlings of Government also who try to knock off such stuff and make some money out of it. All these could certainly be stopped if the Government boldly take a lead in the matter and try to end the controls altogether. The hon. Member on the other side has quoted the instance of Rajasthan. I have also once or twice before related the situation obtaining in Ceylon. Ceylon is a small country and has done well. The Government need not go on supplying all the needs of the people. After all they cannot give more than two or four ounces of rice. Let them be satisfied with such limited supplies and allow people to get their requirements from wherever they can. Why should the Government spend crores and crores of rupees and run a huge department? They can save a lot of money by effecting drastic retrenchment in the Civil Supplies Department. The Government have wisely revised their policy now and say that where

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there is an obliging friend, we can take our requirements from him. But that friend may be afraid of a possible consequence. His obliging us may prove to be a source of complaint against him that he had not given proper statistics of production of foodcrops. Therefore, nobody is coming forward to help the person who is needy. If the Government want to be really helpful to the people, they must adopt the policy of the Rajasthan and Ceylon Governments. They will then be in a position to put down corruption and black-marketing. The present control system has to be modified. The Government must appoint a committee to go into the whole question and thrash out the issue so that we may be relieved from the uproar that controls do not help any one. People exploit the situation created by such controls and make tons of money. I would, therefore, plead with the Government that controls should go. If, however, they feel it is absolutely necessary to continue controls, then I would say it is high time they were modified and enforced strictly."

MR. R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand before you to give my wholehearted support to the Bill before the House."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"Support?"

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"My hon. Friend evidently refers me to the speech I made on the last occasion when the food situation was discussed in this House. Yes. I supported de-rationing then. I would like to remind my hon. Friend that I was not against control but I was for de-rationing. We have achieved our object, viz., de-rationing. Sir, the question of control has been talked about enough in this House, outside this House and even at the All-India Congress Committee meeting. Our great leader, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, has clearly stated his opinion that controls are necessary."

"The idea is, when there is shortage of foodgrains, then we need to import foodgrains from other countries, by way of food loans, by paying dollars and even by way of food donations, free gifts from foreign countries, and control over distribution should continue. That being the case how can we now think of de-controlling foodgrains. Of course people may talk of corruption and other things in the administration of these controls. It might be true. I want to remind those who talk of de-control about the great tragedy that happened in Bengal, during the Bengal famine when millions of poor people died of starvation. I am terrified to think of what would happen to us especially the poor people, if these controls are removed as a result of the hue and cry raised by these people in the Madras State and the southern part of India. In Calcutta rich people did not die during the famine, but the poor people, the villagers, people who could not get anything, they marched to the City of Calcutta and there they died. That was what happened. Suppose the control is removed, what will happen to the poor people of the Ramanathapuram district who get their foodgrains from

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Tanjore. The people of Coimbatore, rich people, big mill-owners, will try to buy all the foodgrains from Tanjore and try to sell the foodgrains in black-market. So we cannot think of de-controlling these things so long as we are in short supply of these things.

"Sir, I want to submit that we have not thought over the matter fully, and we have not given our entire attention to the production aspect of the problem. In our country unfortunately the population is increasing. We are producing more population than foodgrains. It is also true that on account of the increase in population the food problem has become acute in this country. It is also the case in other countries, in the entire world. As the population increases the food problem also becomes more difficult. We have not given sufficient attention to produce more foodgrains to meet the requirements of the increasing population. No doubt more land is being brought under cultivation with the increase in population. We have more or less covered all the land available for cultivation. But unlike western countries where every inch of land has been exploited—the land available for cultivation being very little—our problem is quite different from that of those countries. We should either reduce the population or produce more. And without producing more we cannot think of de-controlling foodgrains. Sir, it is true that the failure of monsoon added to our difficulty, but it was not the only reason which was responsible for the imposition of these controls. Even if we had good monsoons then also the problem would have been there because of the increase in population. Therefore we must think of all these things and unless we solve all these problems and produce food to meet the requirements of the people we cannot think of de-controlling foodgrains. These controls are very necessary in the interests of the poor people. Of course we hear all kinds of loose talk from irresponsible people, from irresponsible parties which are coming up like mushrooms. They are doing false propaganda in order to strike at the Congress. It is only the black-market people who want de-control and not the rural people. These people who advocate de-control do not give the real reasons and ideas behind this advocacy. If they give real reasons, people would certainly support them. I say, Sir, the poor people, the villagers, the peasants, want these controls. I wholeheartedly support this Bill."

* SRI P. KAKKAN :—"கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, கனம் உணவு மந்திரி அவர்கள் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கும் இந்த அத்தியாவசியப் பொருள்கள் கண்ட்ரோல் (திருத்த) மசோதாவை நான் ஆதரித்து சில வார்த்தைகள் பேச விரும்புகிறேன்.

"அத்தியாவசியமான பொருள்களைக் கண்ட்ரோல் செய்து மக்களுக்கு வழங்குகின்றோம். ஆனால், அந்தப் பொருள்கள் மக்களின் நன்மைக்கு என்று இருந்தபோதிலும், அவர்களுக்குப் போய்ச் சேருவது இல்லை. குறிப்பாக, கிராமங்களில் பஞ்ச நிவாரணக் கடைகள் மூலம் ரேஷன் தானியம் கொடுக்கப்படுகின்றது. ஆனால், அங்கங்கேயுள்ள wholesale dealers களுக்கு ரேஷன் முறையில் கொடுக்காமல் கள்ள மார்க்கெட்டில் கொடுத்து விடுகிறார்கள். அதனால், மக்களுக்கு தானியம் கிராக்கியான விலையில் தான்

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[Sri P. Kakkan]

கிடைக்கின்றது. இவ்வாறு உணவு தானியம் black-market-க்குப் போகாமல், மக்களுக்கு கிடைக்கும்படி அரசாங்கம் பார்த்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

"பஞ்ச நிவாரணக் கடைகளில் ஏழை மக்கள் தானியம் வாங்க வரும்போது ஒரு வார ரேஷனை ஒரே தடவையாகத்தான் வாங்கிக் கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஒரு வார ரேஷனுக்குண்டான பணத்தை மொத்தமாகக் கொடுத்து தங்கள் ரேஷனை வாங்கிக் கொள்ள இயலாமல் ஏழை மக்கள் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அன்றாடம் கூலிவேலை செய்து பிழைக்கும் ஏழை மக்களுக்கு தினசரி ரேஷன் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்தால் மிகவும் உதவியாக இருக்கும். ஏனென்றால், தினம் தினம் கிடைக்கும் கூலியைக்கொண்டுதான் தங்கள் ரேஷனை அவ்வப்போது வாங்கிக்கொள்ள இயலும். இவ்வாறு தினந்தோறும் ரேஷன் கொடுப்பது சிரமமாக இருக்குமானால், இரண்டு நாட்களுக்கு ஒரு முறையாவது பஞ்ச நிவாரண கடைகள் மூலம் கொடுத்தால், ஏழை மக்கள் முழு ரேஷனையும் விட்டுப்போகாமல் வாங்கிக்கொள்ள சௌகரியமாக இருக்கும். இவ்விதம் செய்யாவிட்டால், கையில் பணமில்லாததால் ஒரு வார ரேஷனை ஒரே தடவையாக வாங்க முடியாமல் அவர்கள் கஷ்டப்படுவார்கள்.

"நமது மாகாணத்தில் உணவு தானியங்களுக்கு கண்ட்ரோல் ஏற்படுத்தியிருக்கிறார்கள். அதனால் மக்களுக்கு நன்மை ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பதில் சந்தேகமில்லை. ஆனாலும், நிறைய தானியம் black-market-க்குப் போய் அதிக விலைக்கு விற்கப்படுகிறது. இந்த black-market காரர்களின் மீது அரசாங்கம் தக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொண்டுதான் வருகிறது. இருந்தபோதிலும், அவர்களின்மேல் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படும் நடவடிக்கை போதாது. பிகார் அரசாங்கத்தில் யார் யார் அரசாங்கத்தின் கொள்கைக்கு விரோதமாக பொருள்களை black-market-ல் விற்கின்றார்களோ, அவர்களைக் கைதுசெய்து, கையில் விலங்கிட்டு, தெருக்கள் வழியாக நடத்திக் கொண்டுபோய், மக்கள் மத்தியில் அவமானப்படுத்தப்படுகிறார்கள். அதே மாதிரி நம் மாகாண அரசாங்கம் செய்யவில்லை. இந்த மாகாணத்திலும் அம்மாதிரி black-market-ல் கொள்ளை லாபம் அடிப்பவர்களின் மீது இன்னும் கடுமையான நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

"கிராமங்களில் சர்க்கரை விநியோகம் சம்பந்தமாக சில பேர்களுக்கு அரசாங்கம் permit கொடுத்திருக்கின்றது. அந்த permit-ஐ வைத்துக்கொண்டு டவுனிலிருந்து சர்க்கரை மூட்டைகளை வாங்கி கிராமத்தில் ஏழை மக்களுக்கு சரிவர விநியோகிப்பதில்லை. டவுனிலேயே வாங்கி, அதே இடத்தில் மிகவும் தைரியமாக அதை விற்பனைப்போடுகிறார்கள். கிராமங்களுக்குப் போனவுடன் கிராம மக்கள் சர்க்கரைக்காக கடைக்குச் சென்று கேட்கும்போது, சர்க்கரை 'ஸ்பீன்' செய்யப்பட்டுவதில்லை என்று இந்த லைசன்ஸ்தார்கள் தெரிவிக்கின்றார்கள். இந்த விஷயத்தை அதிகாரிகளின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டு வந்தாலும், அவர்கள்மீது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கத் தயங்குகிறார்கள். சில அதிகாரிகள் இம்மாதிரி லைசன்ஸ்தார்களுடன் சேர்ந்துக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் அவர்கள்மீது எந்த நடவடிக்கையும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுவதில்லை. எல்லா அதிகாரிகளும் அம்மாதிரி நடந்து கொள்ளுகிறார்கள் என்று நான் சொல்லவில்லை. ஆயினும், சில அதிகாரிகள் இம்மாதிரி நேர்மையற்ற சாரியங்களுக்கு ஆதரவளிக்கின்றார்கள் என்றுதான் நான் சொல்லுகின்றேன். லைசன்ஸ்தார்கள் ஒழுங்கான முறையில் நடந்துகொள்ளும்படி அதிகாரிகள் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ஏழை மக்களுக்கு எல்லாப் பொருள்களும் சரிவர கிடைக்கும்படி அரசாங்கம் தக்க ஏற்பாடுகளைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு இந்த திருத்த மசோதாவை நான் ஆதரிக்கின்றேன்."

* THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—"Sir, I need not deal with the need for the extension of the life of the Act in detail because some of the hon. Members who spoke have

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already answered the points. There is a real need for the extension of the life of this Act as long as we are in short supply of foodgrains and controls have to be enforced wherever necessary. It is one thing to have this Act in the Statute Book and it is another thing to administer it or to make use of it only to meet unforeseen emergencies. Especially now our supplies are not regular and almost every week there is some change in the situation either by way of supplies not arriving in time or the Central Government trying to cut short even the supplies promised to us. In the midst of so many difficulties and especially when there is a short supply of rice it is very necessary that the Government have the necessary powers to deal with the situation from time to time.

"Sir, my hon. Friend, the Member from Visakhapatnam, was not convinced that these controls should be there while every one of us feel that we have to live under these controls if we have to get our every day necessities. The hon. Member also placed before me this morning a telegram from Visakhapatnam and said that the people are complaining that they are getting very poor quality rice in Visakhapatnam. How can we rectify this difficulty unless we are able to procure very good rice from other districts for supply to Visakhapatnam. So hon. Members must understand that this is very necessary at the present moment and unless there is a change of policy with regard to controls it is not possible to relax the rules made under this Act to deal with the present situation.

"Sir, suggestions were made that in administering the Act certain changes might be made and instances were quoted from other areas, States like Rajasthan and Ceylon. As I said in the beginning, controls are necessary so long as we are in short supply. In Ceylon they are not at all in short supply. Taking into consideration the number of persons who are rationed—every one in Ceylon is rationed—and the quantity required to meet their needs, over and above that rationed quantity, they have a surplus which is allowed to be sold, especially the locally produced rice is allowed to be sold in the open market. About conditions in Rajasthan, I do not know. But, Sir, actually we have been following a plan of that nature—at least to some extent in the derationed areas. When we adopted the policy of derationing in the rural areas, it was considered to be a very bold step. Government would not have taken that step without the support they had from the Houses of Legislature. Having taken that step, Government are trying to deal with that as best as they can. One of the results of this derationing in the rural areas is, we have stopped procurement and as an hon. Member pointed out, this has reduced a great deal of harassment and corruption in those areas. We are opening fair price shops wherever possible and people are able to get something from these shops. Over and above that they are able to buy from the free market. Of course it might be said that there is not much of a free market in these areas but wherever it is possible, in some areas, in some districts, according to the

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reports we have received we find that there is free flow of grains in the open market. People are actually benefited by the policy of derationing rural areas. So, Sir, the Rajasthan system and the Ceylon system are actually in operation in our State to some extent and the more we find the system adopted in rural areas is able to work satisfactorily. Government might think of extending those provisions to other areas also.

"Sir, with regard to urban areas, it will be a dangerous thing to introduce open market in the cities and the urban areas. In cities people have got a very high buying power and if they are allowed to buy in the open market besides the ration they get from the statutory rationing areas, I am sure they will draw away all the grains which are available in the rural areas to the detriment of the poor people who may not be able to buy this in the open market. That is why we are still following the strict policy with regard to statutory rationing in urban areas.

"With regard to sugar, Sir, the position is not the same as that of rice or other supplies. Sugar as you know and as an hon. Member said is not being used by everybody. As soon as we are able to get sufficient quantity of sugar, the position will adjust itself and a free market is sure to be established more firmly than other foodgrains.

"Sir, with regard to enforcement of other provisions and rules made under the Act, Government have been watching the situation from time to time and are taking stock of the situation not only from the speeches made in this House but also from the Food Council which meets every three months when the food position in the State is reviewed, and the administration of the Act discussed. Government always take into account the recommendations made by the State Food Council. So, Sir, every three months there is a general review of the administration of these controls.

"With regard to prices and other things, I think we need not go into detail because it is a well known fact that though Madras is paying a very low price for rice, it is not possible to raise it because we have to follow a certain policy under the direction of the Government of India.

"Then, Sir, in regard to controls, I think there is more hardship created to the people by the violation of controls rather than by controls. If the controls are properly administered and if the people do not violate them, I am sure there will be less hardship and less harassment. I therefore request the House to pass the Bill."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

'That the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'

The motion was carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I am going to put the Preamble, and clauses 1 and 2, to the vote of the House."

1-30
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SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, we shall take up the clauses after lunch."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Has the hon. Member got to say anything? "

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Yes, Sir."

IV.—INFORMATION ABOUT PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO THE MADRAS
HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS BILL, 1949.

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—" On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the Government have received the assent of the President for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Bill, 1949, in spite of the strong opposition from vested interests? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I may inform you and the House, Sir, that the Government have telegraphic information that the President has given his assent to the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Bill, 1949, and it has become law yesterday."

The House then rose for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS—cont.

(1) THE MADRAS ESSENTIAL ARTICLES CONTROL AND REQUISITIONING
(TEMPORARY POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL, 1951—cont.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The motion is—

'That clause 1 do stand part of the Bill.' "

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say just a few words because the Hon. Minister said that as long as there are controls, this Act is necessary. I am submitting that this is *petitio principii*. I was arguing this morning that this Act and these controls should all go in the interests of the elevation of standards of public life and the Hon. Minister turned round and said 'Mr. Viswanatham has handed over a telegram to me requesting better quality of rice to be supplied' and hinted that I was arguing against myself. I am only submitting to him, to you, Sir, and to the House, that, as long as these controls exist and as long as the Government have the exclusive right to procure and supply rice, it is their bounden duty to supply good quality of rice. That is why I gave a telegram requesting for better quality of rice to be supplied. They are at present supplying very bad quality of rice not properly husked, full of stones and full of several other kinds of material. The six ounces of ration that is now being given is getting reduced to 4 ounces or less when it is cleaned. Excepting people like myself who can sustain themselves with such small quantities of rice, nobody is able to sustain himself on the meagre quantity. Last time I drew the attention of the Government,—the Hon. the Minister for Food was not present in the House then,—that even honest men were

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obliged to go to the 'open market.' When large quantities of rice are going to the *open market* it has become a recognised market and the Government have also referred to the price of rice in the *open market*. Sir, this slogan that as long as there are shortages there must be controls, is an old slogan. In theory it is not correct. Even before the war, we had shortages in several other articles besides rice. As an experimental measure, we introduced this in 1944. But now the experiment has failed; the administration of it has failed. But the Hon. Minister, like the Hon. the Minister for Food at the Centre, has thrown the blame on the people as if these gentlemen, the Ministers, come from somewhere outside India. I submit, Sir, they are enforcing a very unnatural system on the people and there is no use blaming the people saying that the people are corrupt and that they are not co-operating in the administration of these controls. These controls cannot be administered by any Government and it is impossible in the case of rice which the entire population of this State requires. The experiment has proved a failure. There is no use sitting in ethereal regions saying that, if there are no controls, people will starve. People will never starve. People never starved even when there were no controls. Sir, mention was made of the name of the Prime Minister of India it was stated that he too said that we must have controls. I can also draw in the name of Mahatma Gandhi by whom all of us swear and whose portrait is here seen on the wall watching the destinies of the people of this State. Sir, why was Mahatma Gandhi against controls? Because the controls are unnatural. They do not suit the genius of the people. They do not fit in the administration. The Government with these controls are compelling the people to become corrupt. Of course, members of the executive have no trouble and they always have as much rice as they like and that too of good quality. There is no use Government shutting their eyes to corruption—I shall not say corruption—to the compulsory deflection from rules. It is impossible for a man not to violate these rules. I am submitting to the Government once again to press upon the Central Government to allow them to decontrol and deration completely if they want good standards of public life. In fact, we are getting only 4 ounces of rice when the 6 ounces of ration rice is cleaned. The quality of rice in the open market is very good and there is no loss in quantity even after it is cleaned. Therefore, I submit that these controls are not merely unnatural but they are also not possible of fair administration. I appeal to the Government to do away with this unnatural system."

* THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Sir, I do not want to prolong the discussion. But I wish to point out that, when I said that controls are necessary at the present moment, I said that we have to follow a certain common policy throughout India. Because, as long as we go to the Central Government for our requirements in regard to rice and other commodities which are in short supply, we have to follow a common policy which the Government of India have prescribed for the whole

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country. As I have already pointed out, Sir, we have been allowed to try this experiment of derationing in rural areas only in this State and as I said, in some of these matters we can make controls less harassing and less objectionable to the people as far as possible. But the Government must be armed with these powers to meet any emergency."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

'That clause 1 do stand part of the Bill.'"

The motion was carried.

Clause 2 and the Preamble were put and carried.

* THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE, VICTORIA:—"Sir, I move—

'That the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Motion moved—

'That the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'"

SRI B. S. MURTHY:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while not opposing the Bill being passed into law, I would like to make a few remarks. I think the procurement methods adopted by the Government are defective. The hon. Member, Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao, the other day has asked a question whether the Hon. Minister was aware of the full stocks of rice and other foodgrains available in the State and whether the quantities available in the blackmarket were also taken into consideration for purposes of procurement. But the Hon. Minister gave an answer which did not meet the question. Now, Sir, I would like to know how the procurement is made, who is responsible to estimate the produce and how much is being left to the ryots. In several cases force is being used and sometimes police force also is being used in the process of procurement. I know an instance, Sir, where a poor landless agricultural labourer who was having two to three bags of rice in his hut was forced to forego one bag and the procurement officer, I understand, remarked why he should have three bags when all the other people are starving. Here is a case, Sir, where an agricultural labourer who with his family works for the whole season in the fields and keeps behind something to fall back upon during the season when he will have no work, is forced to forego one bag of his rice. I would request the Hon. Minister to arrange that people with less than at least 5 acres of land and people who only depend upon manual labour should not be harassed for purposes of procurement. This Act falls heavily upon the poor agricultural labourers and Harijans. In Guntur, from where the Hon. Minister, Mr. Chandramouli comes, I know a case where 90 bags of paddy earned by about 150 labourers has not been allowed to be taken to another place. I too have enquired into the matter and written a letter to the Collector. A reply came

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to me that the matter will be considered. Even to-day, after one and a half years, the procurement officers have not released that quantity of paddy which the labourers have earned by their manual labour. Sir, I feel that such cases should be considered sympathetically.

"My hon. Friend, Sri Viswanatham, has been talking about rice in 'Ration shops' and in the 'open market' in a sarcastic manner. 2-45. p.m.

"Now, Sir, if you go to Vyasarpadi or Korukupet or to the mufassal places adjacent to the above taluks, you get first-class Nellore rice. Rice of the first-class quality called 'Pulav' rice, which my Muhammadan friends would be very happy to have, is available in the open market, if you are able to pay four or six annas more than the price that you pay for the rice in the ration shops. Somehow or other the citizens of Madras are able to get this kind of first-class rice. The only thing is that they must have enough money in their pockets to buy rice.

"Now, Sir, I ask the Government what they are doing? Why should they allow these things to happen? I would most emphatically say that it is solely due to the inefficiency of the administration that is responsible for this state of affairs.

"Even with regard to the distribution of rice the Government are not strictly acting according to the provisions of the Act. If they are not able to enforce the enactment, why should they not drop it? Why should not they leave it to the people to make their own arrangements in the matter of rice? For each and everything you look up to the Government of India. In the matter of distribution of rice, the Government are not doing the correct thing. I am sure that there would be enough rice for the citizens of the Madras State if only the Government have not tinkered with the problem by exporting rice to deficit areas in a thoughtless manner and thereby spoiling the whole picture. It is solely due to mal-administration of the Act, that the people are suffering in the matter of food in this Province."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Murthy, has been arguing."

SRI B. S. MURTHY:—"Sir, I am not a lawyer to argue."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Even though the hon. Member is not a lawyer, he can argue." (Laughter.)

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"The hon. Gentleman, Sri B. S. Murthy, has told the House that we are able to get rice in the open market. He said rice of the first-class quality which he called 'Pulav' rice is readily available in Vyasarpadi and adjacent places and that the only thing required was the necessary money in people's pockets to buy it. The hon. Member does not understand that if the ration shops had not been selling rice at the controlled rates, not a trace of this 'pulav' rice would be available in the open market at the prices prevailing now. It would be sold at the exorbitant rate of rupees three per measure. It is because ration rice is sold at the ration shops at controlled rates by the

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Government, this small distinction is being made now. But for the existence of these ration shops, the price of the 'pulav' rice would have soared up to enormous heights.

"Therefore, Sir, I submit that the argument of the hon. Member is wholly fallacious."

* SRI K. BHASHYAM :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, coming to the third reading of the Bill I wish to make a few observations in respect of these controls. I agree with the previous speaker that the controls must continue for some time to come. During the short interval when there was no control, we have had considerable experience in the Madras City. The price of rice soared up very high. People were not able to get enough rice to feed their stomachs. Therefore there is no doubt a case for the control of rice to continue for some time to come.

"If at all, controls are to be abolished, we must have the willing co-operation of the merchants and dealers of commodities in this matter. But that is not possible now.

“ The Government must take a comprehensive view in the matter of procurement of rice. So far as the object of the procurement is concerned, I am in entire agreement with. But in its application the Government are not doing their work properly. The rich, I mean, the big landlords who own more than hundred acres escape somehow. They are able to stock enough after surrendering a part of their produce. Only the poor are afflicted. We hear of a lot of cases wherein the poor are being harassed and are required to surrender their meagre produce.

“ In this matter, the Government must take special care. It is the responsibility of the Ministers concerned to view the problem in a realistic manner, appeal to the landlords to help them in their procurement policy and see that procurement is made a success. Each Minister should be in charge of two or three districts and should personally see that the procurement policy is properly applied. I am quite sure, Sir, that if the Ministers properly apply themselves to the task, as I have suggested, there would be no trouble in the procurement move proving successful.

“Next to this question of ‘procurement’ comes the question of ‘distribution.’ There is no meaning in stocks being rushed from Tanjore to Mangalore when Mangalore’s stocks have dwindled. The Government must see that stocks are rushed from adjacent places. If difficulty is experienced in the matter of transport, the Government should see that enough handy transport is made available in the matter of distribution.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ A separate day has been allotted for the food debate.”

* SRI K. BHASHYAM :—“ I may not be here on that day, I shall finish in a few minutes.

"I am glad to hear that a separate day had been allotted for the discussion on food. My only wish is Sir, that while the control should continue for some time to come, it should be properly

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applied and the Government must see that down to a villager, everybody get enough rice."

* JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill is intended to extend the life of the existing Act which is the fountain head of the issue of all control orders. So far as the Essential Articles are concerned it is necessary to have the controls, for they are the ingredients for maintaining the life of the community.

“ In the matter of rice, the staple food of our people, a dual policy has been pursued by this Government. Controls exist in some places while in other places they are not in operation. In rural areas, controls have been abolished in the matter of rice. From the experience of people in my district, from my own experience and from the experience of some experienced people in the line, I can say emphatically that derationing of rice in certain of the rural areas has caused untold hardship to the people. The prices have soared up very high and the prices of even other essential articles have shot up; while the controlled price of one moora of rice is Rs. 15, it has shot up to Rs. 50 per moora in South Kanara in the derationed areas.

“ The cultivators, the poor labourers and even the lower middle classes are suffering. You may extend the life of this Act, which is the very fountain head for all control orders, by a year to two. But is it going to prove beneficial to the general community? If the Government are not able to maintain the controls in the correct manner, it is better they drop them.

"I wish to voice my strong protest against this Bill on the ground that controls have led to uncontrollable miseries for the people, because the machinery has been so very ineffective in the maintenance of the controls."

*SRI B. VENKATANARAYANA REDDI:—“ అప్పడా, ఈ కంట్రీలో 3 p.m.

బిల్లును గురించి ఈ స్థితిలో ఎంత ప్రతిపూలముగా మాట్లాడినప్పటికిని ఏమి ప్రయోజనములేదు అనే సంగతి నాకు తెలుసును. మన రాష్ట్రములో ఈ కంప్లెక్సు నాలుగు బిడు సంవత్సరాలకుపైగా నుండి అమలులో ఉంటూన్నది. ఏ సంవత్సరమునకు ఆ సంవత్సరము ఈ కంప్లెక్సు అమలు జరుగచున్నటువంటి పథకులు, విధానాలు ప్రభుత్వమువారు గమనించి ఎప్పటికప్పుడు ఎన్ని మార్పులు చేసినాకూడ, ఇందువల్ల ఎక్కువ ప్రయోజనము లేకుండా పోతున్నదనే సంగతి ప్రభుత్వమువారు, ముఖ్యంగా మంత్రులుకూడా, గమనించియున్నారు. ఇట్టి పరిస్థితులు గమనించినాకూడా, కంప్లెక్సు వల లాభములేదని తేలిచప్పటికి వాటిని తొలగించడానికి ప్రభుత్వము ప్రయత్నము చేయలేక పోతున్నందుకు చాలా విచారముగ నున్నది. ఏ పటిల యొక్క వి సామాన్య ప్రజానీకముయొక్క మేలుకొంగు అనే ఆధిపత్యముతో ఈ కంప్లెక్సు పెట్టెలో, ఆ ప్రజల యొక్క ఆ సామాన్య ప్రజానీకముయొక్క కష్టపైలను తొలగించడానికి, గట్టి ప్రయత్నము ప్రభుత్వమువారు చేయలేక పోయినందుకు నా విచారాన్ని తెలుపుతున్నాను. పైగా, ఇక ఈ కంప్లెక్సు ఏమీ తప నిసరిగా ఉండగలవని, ఈ విషయంలో మన రాష్ట్రం ఇతర రాష్ట్రాలతోపాటు uniform గా ఉండవలెననే విషయాన్ని గూడ చదివడి పది మంత్రులు చెప్పుతున్నారు. కాని ధరల విషయములో మన రాష్ట్రము ఇతర రాష్ట్రములతోపాటు uniform గా ఉండగలదేదా యని

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యూచించవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వమును ప్రార్థిస్తున్నాను. ఇతర దేశములలో కోట్లకొలది డబ్బు హెచ్చుగా రైతులకు ఇస్తూయండి, మన రాష్ట్రములో అన్ని కష్టస్థులు అనభవించి ఈనాడు ఈ రాష్ట్రానికింతా కావలసినవివంటి ధాన్యంలో హెచ్చు భాగాన్ని ఇచ్చుచున్నవంటి ఇవ్వలేరైతులకు క్రమమైన ధర ఇవ్వకుండాయినారు. హెచ్చుధర ఇవ్వకుండా ఉండడము కేవలము మన రాష్ట్రములో మాత్రమే. ఉత్తర ప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్రములో ఆ ప్రభుత్వము ఇస్తున్న ధరలను గమనించికూడా ఈ రాష్ట్రములో అటు ఇవ్వలేకుండా రోవడం న్యాయంకాదు. ఉత్తర ప్రదేశ్ ధరలు మద్రాసు ప్రభుత్వము ఇవ్వలేక సోతన్న నిజయ్యను యథార్థంగా అన్యాయంగా రైతులకు కప్పించుటవలననే వారి అసంతృప్తికి కారణమవుచున్నది. కనుక కంట్రోల్డ్ తప్పని ధరి ఉన్న పక్షంలో ఇందుమీద కొంతవరకైనా క్రమమైన ధరలు ఇచ్చి రైతులలోని అసంతృప్తిని తొలగించుటకు ప్రయత్నించవలెనని ప్రభుత్వమువారికి మునిచేయుచున్నాను."

* THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the suggestions made just now controls are necessary for the maintenance of the present position with regard to our food. These powers of control on essential commodities are necessary to maintain the present state of affairs until we are in a better position to supply the needs of the people in a free market. Many suggestions have been made with regard to the administration of the Act and, as I have already stated, we are only waiting for an opportunity for slackening or making these controls less difficult and less harassing to the people. I will be the first person, Sir, to work towards that end. When it is possible to really remove these controls or at least some of them, I will be the happiest person and at that stage it may not be necessary at all to have so many restrictions upon the movement of food. The main difficulty, as I have already pointed out, is only the short supply of essential articles which has led to these controls. I request that the Bill may be passed into law."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

'That the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'

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

(2) THE MADRAS IRRIGATION (BETTERMENT CONTRIBUTION AND INCLUSION FEES) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Irrigation (Betterment Contribution and Inclusion Fees) Bill, 1951 and move that—

(1) The concurrence of the Legislative Council be obtained in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 21 members to consider the Bill (14 members from the Assembly and 7 members from the Council),

published in the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 24th August 1951.

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(2) the following members of the Assembly be nominated as members of the Joint Select Committee.'

I shall give the names later.

In moving this motion, Sir, I would bring to the notice of this House that since the inception of the Grow More Food Campaign in 1943, the Government have been constructing, improving or extending a large number of irrigation or drainage works every year. The pace of Government's action in this regard has been further accelerated by the Tank Improvement Scheme sanctioned in 1949. The result has been that on the one hand the Government have been put to a large extra expenditure while on the other the owners of lands have secured appreciable unearned increments in the value of their lands on account of the construction, improvement or extension of these works. It seems reasonable that a part at least of the expenditure on these works should be recovered from the persons directly benefited by them, so that the general tax-payer may be relieved at least of a part of the burden. The Government, therefore, consider it fair and reasonable to levy betterment contributions or inclusion fees from owners of lands which are benefited or are capable of being benefited by the irrigation or drainage works constructed, improved or extended by the Government. In many cases, the Government have also been announcing their intention to levy such contributions or fees, while sanctioning irrigation or drainage schemes. They have now decided to undertake legislation for the purpose immediately in view of the present urgent need for augmenting the State's finances. The Madras Irrigation (Betterment Contribution and Inclusion Fees) Bill, 1951, has been brought forward in order to secure this object.

The Bill entitles the Government to recover betterment contribution from the owners of lands which are benefited or are capable of being benefited by any irrigation or drainage work, the construction, extension or improvement of which was completed on or after the 1st January 1943. The District Collector will fix the betterment contribution in respect of each land after ascertaining the views of the owners and taking into account the increase in the capital value of the land on account of the construction, improvement or extension of the irrigation or drainage work. The maximum betterment contribution recoverable will be one-half of this increase.

An appeal will lie to the Board of Revenue against the determination of the District Collector fixing the amount of betterment contribution and the Government may, either of their own motion or on application by the aggrieved person, revise the amount fixed by the District Collector or the Board of Revenue.

The betterment contribution fixed by the District Collector may be paid either in cash or by surrendering land of equal value. Where it is paid in cash, it may be paid either in one lump sum with a rebate of a prescribed percentage or in annual instalments together with a prescribed rate of interest. The minimum number

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of instalments will be five and the maximum will, unless the Government otherwise direct, be ten. Any voluntary contribution already paid by an owner towards the cost of the construction, improvement or extension of the irrigation or drainage work in question may be deducted from the betterment contribution payable by him.

"The Bill also entitles the Government to levy an inclusion fee on any dry land included in the wet, or the irrigated dry, ayacut served by any irrigation or drainage work, the construction, improvement, or extension of which was completed on or after the first January 1943. The provisions relating to the determination and recovery of the betterment contribution will, subject to such modification as may be specified by the Government in the rules, apply to the determination and recovery of inclusion fees.

"As we are referring this Bill to a Joint Select Committee, Sir, I need not go into further details and any suggestions made by the Honourable Members will be considered in the Joint Select Committee and a report submitted to this House. I request the House, Sir, to give permission for my motion."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move, under Rule 67 of the Assembly Rules—

That the House do postpone this Bill and pass on to the business next in order.

My reasons, Sir, are briefly as follows: What is proposed in the Bill is a tax on the capital value of assets. If you refer, Sir, to the Seventh Schedule to the Government of India Act, you will find that in list A there are certain taxes relating to land and agricultural income. Now, item 82 is tax on income other than agricultural income; item 86 is tax on the capital value of assets exclusive of agricultural land, etc.; item 87—Estate duty in respect of property other than agricultural land and item 88—Duties in respect of succession to properties other than agricultural land. These four items are the only items which mention taxation on agricultural properties. You will see, Sir, that while the list gives power to the Central Government to levy certain taxes, agricultural income is excluded. Now, we have to see, whether, having excluded it from the Central list, the Constitution gives such power to the State Legislature. If we go into the State List the first tax with regard to land is in item 45. Item 45 is land revenue including assessment and collection of revenue; item 46—tax on agricultural income; item 47—duty in respect of succession to agricultural land and item 48—Estate Duty in respect of agricultural land. You will see, Sir, advisedly the Constitution omits taxes on capital value of agricultural land."

MR. SPEAKER :—"It is not a tax; it is a fee. Fees are different from taxes."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"I am submitting to you, the Government calls it contribution and not 'fee'. Sir, although it is called a contribution this is a tax on the capital value of the asset."

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It may be called a contribution but what is the difference? One provision in the Bill, in fact, indicates to us the nature of the contribution. If you refer, Sir, to clause 10, sub-clause (1), you will find the Government state that 'the owner of any land in respect of which any contribution is payable may elect either to pay it in cash or to surrender to the Government a portion of the land, the value whereof is, in the opinion of the District Collector, equal to the amount of the contribution.' This gives us the real nature of the contribution. Simply because you call it a fee or a contribution it does not cease to be a tax."

MR. SPEAKER :—"Fees are different from taxes."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"I know it, Sir, but we have to consider the substance and I may submit to the Government, to you and to this House, Sir, that it is not a mere contribution; it is taking out a slice of the land itself, a portion of the capital itself and I submit that it comes under none of the items given either to the State Legislature or the Central Legislature. The Central Legislature has got the power to levy tax on the capital value of the assets exclusive of the agricultural land, while in the items given for the State tax on capital assets of agricultural land is altogether omitted. It is a very significant omission and, as I submitted already, I want to repeat the argument that the mere terminology does not dispose of the matter. If you look into the substance you will see it is a tax. And, you will find that in most cases where a contribution will be levied under the terms of this legislation the people will not be able to pay the contribution for their so-called betterment except by sale of the land or by parting with it altogether. Such will be the rigour because the increase in value will be calculated, we do not know on what basis. Government do not give any insight. They say 'under the prescribed rules' and they do not give us even a model of these prescribed rules and do not even say that these prescribed rules will come up for the approval of the Legislature and everything is left to the sweet will of the District Collector and the executive."

MR. SPEAKER :—"In England and in the Centre they have got a Committee of the House to go into the rules."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may submit that this is one of the considerations why I have not raised a point of order."

MR. SPEAKER :—"If the hon. Member wants, he can change the rules and have a Committee of the House as in England and in the Centre."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Sir, for my part, I am prepared but the only thing that stands in the way is that the Government seem to be unwilling to co-operate with this House and the people. Sir, I now proceed to some other considerations."

"I submit that the burden upon land is already heavy in this State. For a long time the people have been complaining that

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the agriculturists have been neglected by this Government. Now, all of a sudden, the Government seem to be very well pleased with the agriculturists and they are paying a little too much attention. Every conceivable form of contribution or imposition is being now foisted upon those poor agriculturists and the agricultural land. Sir, as it is, the standard assessment on the land is very heavy in several districts. You will remember, that the Government had appointed a Committee on Land Revenue Reforms, the report of which has just been published. If you refer to page 31 of that Report, you will find that the Committee came to the conclusion that the assessments are very heavy in three taluks of Visakhapatnam and in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Bellary, Anantapur (except Kadiri taluk), South Arcot, Salem (except a few taluks), Tiruchirappalli (excepting a few villages), Tanjore, Madurai, Anjengo sub-taluk of Tirunelveli, Gudalur taluk of Nilgiris district, Malabar and South Kanara districts. The Land Revenue Reforms Committee have found that the assessments are very heavy in these areas and they have suggested that the resettlement enhancements have to be cancelled. I have just mentioned this to show that already the ryot has been obliged to pay very heavy rents and imposts. Not only that. Half the resettlement enhancements were recommended to be cancelled in Chingleput district, Coimbatore district, Karur taluk of the Tiruchirappalli district excepting the eleven villages which formed part of the Madurai district until 1932, Chittoor district excepting the Vayalpad and Madanapalle taluks and North Arcot district except the Tirupattur taluk. I have read such a big list to draw your attention to the fact that the agriculturist is already bearing a very heavy assessment. Then, Sir, there are the land cesses which have gone up by 25 per cent."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member should not go into the merits of the question at this stage."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I am saying that the Government should not proceed with this Bill firstly on the ground of legal flaw, namely, that we have no power and secondly on the ground that the agriculturists are already overburdened with assessments and cesses. Then, Sir, the Government would have done well to bring in all measures of taxation in one Bill, at least those which relate to land. The Government want to bring in one Bill with regard to surcharges on dry holdings. They want to bring in another Bill to levy agricultural income-tax and then Sir, they have come forward with another resolution recommending Estate duty on agricultural lands. They want to bring another Bill recommending full assessment on inams. They are also bringing forward, what is called, inclusion fee, a thing which was unknown to this State until 1930, when this was sought to be introduced only in two delta areas of Godavari and Krishna. On top of all these, the Government come with the Betterment Levy. I submit, Sir, that this is very unfair. Besides ordinary cesses, there is what is called water cess which the agriculturists are paying already at very heavy rates. If you go through the rates,

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as published in the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue, you will find really that water rates are related to the costs incurred by Government in the construction of irrigation works and supply of water for the crops. Therefore, the object which the Government now say they have in introducing this betterment levy is already fulfilled by the water cess. Sir, water cess is generally six rupees on dry lands, two rupees for the first crop and four rupees for the second crop. Rupees six is the ordinary standard scale of water cess in East Godavari and West Godavari. Water rate is more than the difference between wet and dry rates of assessments. If you go into the rates of water cess in other areas, it comes to rupees five for a single crop an acre and where there are two crops, the water cess is Rs. 8-2-0 per acre. For sugarcane, betel, plantains, turmeric, elephant yam and other garden produce remaining on the ground for the time of two crops, the water cess is Rs. 10 per acre. In the case of Government and minor inam dry lands where sugarcane, betel, turmeric, elephant yam and other garden produce are produced, the water cess is Rs. 8. Then if you go into the Ceded districts areas, the water rates payable on lands irrigated by the Siddhapuram tank in the Kurnool district is Rs. 14-1-0 per acre. In South Arcot district also, in some of the areas, the water rate ranges between Rs. 6-4-0 and Rs. 9-6-0. Forty per cent of the people own small extents of land. Therefore, one has got to see what is the burden each holding can bear and each ordinary tenant has to bear. I submit, Sir, in these circumstances, it is not a wise tax and it is not even economically a progressive tax. The Government has not taken us into confidence by bringing in one Bill containing all taxes relating to land. We are at a loss to know the exact intentions of the Government. We do not know whether they are going to have agricultural income-tax or surcharge on dry holdings or agricultural Estate duty. We do not know what are all the weapons in their armoury. The House has got the right to know them. Unless the Government come forward with one consolidated Bill, it is wrong for them to bring forward such taxation proposals in the middle of the year, bit by bit and slip by slip. As a matter of fact, they have not taken any final decision on the Land Revenue Reforms Committee Report. They say that the Irrigation Bill is still under contemplation. Then what is the hurry? It appears that since 1943, they executed several works. The people to whom lands were assigned under the Grow More Food Campaign were never told that the Government would levy betterment contributions. Since 1943, people did invest money in the hope that the value was theirs. As in measures dealing with punishments, taxation measures should not be made retrospective. I do not think, Sir, the House will be right in accepting the principle of retrospectivity. Just as you cannot pass any *ex post facto* legislation, so also in demanding extra taxation or extra betterment contribution or anything which involves financial contributions, it will be wrong on the part of the House to assent to a measure which gives retrospective effect as far back as 1943. Sir, I consider there is a great volume of opposition to all these taxation measures in the public

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mind. I believe a good number of Members of the Government party also are not in agreement. We also see that the *Hindu* which is sufficiently representative of public opinion in this State has severely criticised the imposition of betterment fee. In these circumstances, I propose that we do proceed to the next item of business."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I am seconding the motion of my friend Sri T. Viswanatham. The costs of the construction of tanks or any irrigation works should not be levied either as a fee or tax on the landowners or ayacutdars. The ayacutdars have been paying water-tax though the designed volume of water has not been supplied to their ayacut. But the Government are not going to reimburse the ayacutdars for the loss of their benefit of receiving water. The Government had merely fulfilled their obligations cast upon them when they construct tanks or make improvements. The water-tax is in lieu of the better status of the land obtained by execution of the irrigation works. It is something very unreasonable for the Government to ask for a contribution for doing their own duty which had been neglected, over which the Government have been shedding tears, real or crocodile, very many times. The value of the land, they say, is appreciating by new construction. My point is that there has been negligence on the part of the Government in the past, and the Government are therefore bound now to reimburse the loss sustained by the people by constructing or improving the irrigation work. It is impossible to think of an appreciation in value only on account of construction; the labour put in, the amount of money which the ayacutdar has invested on the land and the improvements he has made to the land, all these go towards an appreciation in the value. Again, Sir, you want to assess the appreciated value at the present inflated rate. After all, the State have all along been collecting rent and water-cess from the ayacutdars, and now you want to collect from them a betterment fee. Throughout the Bill, I have not found the words 'new construction' or 'new development' or 'new improvement' and that this Bill, therefore, means to charge any work done for irrigation scheme. If, for instance, you improve a tank, naturally an extension of water-supply is made to dry lands and so you collect water-cess from the ryot. As already pointed out by my friend, the burden on the land is already too much, and it is absolutely wrong for the Government to think of collecting a betterment fee on the assumption that the value of the land has appreciated on that basis. As I said, it is only the negligence on the part of the Government to keep the tanks in good repair that is responsible for the land not yielding well. Even if the State means any new construction or new development or improvement or expansion, you are only eligible to get water cess but certainly no contribution or any portion of the land should be improved. As a matter of fact, we all know that after a construction takes place, you cannot get proper value until the expiry of eight or ten years. But now you want to make a levy immediately after the construction . . ."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" I am afraid the hon. Member is discussing the merits of the Bill itself."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—" The question of the undesirability of this Bill has to be considered. My only point is whether it is right for the Government to take away a certain portion of the property, which amounts to taking away capital. In addition to what my hon. Friend Mr. Viswanatham said, viz., that it is constitutionally wrong; the State is expropriating and they are actually plundering the property of the people very unreasonably from people for whom you have been shedding crocodile tears . . ."

SRI K. RAJARAM NAYUDU :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member says 'You are plundering away the property of the people'."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member won't have the course to say that." (Laughter.)

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—" Again, we are told that contribution fee is to be collected in respect of tanks constructed during the period the Grow More Food scheme has been in existence. We all know that for the purpose of increasing the production of food-crops in our State, many concessions were given to the ryots. The ryots put much money and labour over their land and made many improvements. You now want to have the benefit of the inflated value of the land, and the Government want to take away 50 per cent of it. Whatever concession was given to the ryots as a result of the Grow More Food Campaign it is now being sought to be deprived by this Bill. If it was known already that you would levy this contribution now, the ryots would not have invested so much money on their land, in accordance with what they thought was an honest scheme for growing more food in the country. I submit, Sir, it is certainly beyond the scope either of the Government or of the Legislature to expropriate property like this, by calling it a fee or a tax or a contribution.

" Again, Sir, we are not aware under what circumstances this contribution will be levied, whether it is to be in respect of existing tanks or only in respect of new construction or new improvement. Moreover, what is it that you call 'improvement?' Under the present Bill, even the annual maintenance of any irrigation work could be called 'improvement' and betterment fee levied. Some clarification is really necessary in this regard.

" Another aspect of it is this: it is wrong to entrust the valuation of these contributions to the Revenue Department. This is not the case anywhere else. The subject should be put in the hands of an independent tribunal to be set up specially for this purpose subject to judicial appeals; or it must be left in the hands of a judicial body. When, however, I have the opportunity to go into the merits of the Bill, I shall speak in greater detail on these matters.

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"I shall conclude, Sir, by saying that I object to the very principle underlying the levy of this contribution in the name of some improvement which the Government were bound to carry out. Sir, the Hon. Minister wants me to say that I do not agree with Mr. Viswanatham; but I submit I completely agree with him, and in principle, I do say that the Government are none else, than exploiters, at the fag-end of their term of office. They are liable to forfeit the confidence placed in them."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Motion moved—

'That the House do postpone the consideration of this Bill and pass on to the business next in order.'"

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, I do not wish to go into the merits of the question. The point raised by the hon. Gentleman Mr. Viswanatham, the purely legal or constitutional part of it, I shall deal with. He referred to the Seventh Schedule. At page 242, in item 86 we find 'Taxes on the capital value of the assets, exclusive of agricultural land of individuals and companies: taxes on the capital of companies'. By 'exclusion' the idea is that taxes even on the capital value of agricultural land is certainly not in the Union List. By implication, it may be construed that it is in the State List. We will now look at the other position; in the State List, item 18 clearly says: 'Land, that is to say, rights in or over land, land tenure, including the relation of landlord and tenant, and the collection of rents, transfer and alienation of agricultural land; land improvement . . .'. So, 'land improvement' is certainly put down in the State List. Further to that, 'Taxes on lands and buildings' is put in in item 49. Even if you construe it not as a tax, but as a fee . . ."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I just want to say that he is arguing that it is a tax. The argument of the Government is that it is not a tax."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I am not arguing on the basis that it is a tax. I say that even if it is construed that it is a tax, certainly taxes on the capital value of agricultural land are not in the Union List. Item 66 of the State List also says 'Fees in respect of any other matters in this List'. Sir, this Bill calls it a betterment contribution; it may be only a betterment fee. The fact that it is calculated in a particular way or takes into account the capital value or improvement in the capital value of land does not detract from the fact that these are contributions. They may be called 'fees' for the purpose of finance. But then the very fact that the tax on the capital value even of agricultural land is excluded from the Union list shows that it was the intention of the framers of the Constitution that it should be within the power of the States. If it is not so, the Constitution leaves a big vacuum. It cannot be the framers' intention that neither the State nor the Union should have the power to levy a tax of this kind. Whether construed as a tax or as a fee, it is certainly within the rights of the State; otherwise, the interpretation which the

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hon. Gentleman Mr. Viswanatham gives, makes it obligatory on us to construe the Constitution as if tax on the capital value of agricultural land was left out of the Constitution altogether. It cannot be so, and I submit that this Bill proceeds strictly in accordance with the Constitution and strictly in accordance with the provision in the State List."

Sri K. T. Kosalam rose.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have allowed sufficient time for discussion of the motion of hon. Member Mr. Viswanatham. The Hon. Minister will now reply."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"So far as the legal aspect of the question is concerned, I am sure the reply of the hon. Member, Sri Varadachari, is quite sufficient. But I may just draw the attention of the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Viswanatham, to this: that item 17 of the State List refers to 'Water, that is to say, water-supplies, irrigation and canals', and again item 18 says 'Land, that is to say, rights in or over land'. Even if it is considered a tax by any stretch of imagination, Entry No. 49 specifically refers to 'Taxes on lands and buildings'. Then there is also Entry No. 66 which relates to 'fees in respect of any of the matters in the list'. So, Sir, it is quite within the competence of this Legislature to legislate on this matter."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"My point was that this is a tax on the capital value of the assets; not that it is a mere tax. I know it is a tax and he also agrees it is a tax. But whether he agrees or not, the recommendation of the Governor has been obtained on the understanding that it is a tax. If it is a mere fee or contribution, no recommendation was necessary. If it is a tax on the capital value of the land, that is not in the State List. It is not in the Union List either, and the Centre can, under its residuary powers, legislate, but not this State here."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I have already said that it is quite within the competence of this Legislature, under the various Lists as I have just now pointed out. Sir, this is not a question of tax on capital value at all. This is not a tax, but a specific fee for a specific purpose. If there is conversion of dry land into wet and also if there is a betterment of wet land due to new irrigation sources, this comes in. So, it may not be called a tax in the sense in which the hon. Member wants to interpret it. So far as the legal aspect of it is concerned, I am quite clear that there is no difficulty about it."

"Apart from the legal aspect, certain issues were raised particularly by the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Viswanatham, that the Government have not taken the Legislature into confidence and told them what the measures were that were to be brought forward. Sir, in His Excellency the Governor's Address to both the Houses of the Legislature, all contemplated legislation was mentioned, and even during the discussions thereon, hon. Members have had an

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opportunity of saying what they felt on the various pieces of legislation that were to come up. So, so far as the Government are concerned, I claim that we have taken the Legislature into confidence and told them of the various taxation measures that we have proposed and we have also sought the views of both the Houses of the Legislature on them.

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"Then, Sir, another point was raised, namely, the agriculturist of this country, and particularly of this State, has been heavily taxed. I submit these are issues that do not arise so far as this Bill is concerned. This is a simple proposition. Government out of public revenue spend money on the construction of irrigation sources, improvement of existing irrigation sources or drainage and on account of the expenditure of public revenues in a particular region or place, the value of the land increases and the person concerned is benefited. So, with a view to see that the money realised from those persons who are benefited by the improvements, is utilized for purposes of making improvements in other places, it is proposed to collect a fee from those people who are benefited, or rather a portion of their unearned increment. It is not a question of heavy taxes and all that and there is enough scope for that when we bring in other measures. But so far as this measure is concerned, the person who is asked to pay betterment contribution is benefited by the services rendered by the State at public expense or from the funds that the public have contributed to the coffers of the State. When a certain sum is taken over from the coffers of the State and used for the improvement of particular persons or group of persons' land, the Bill merely proposes that a certain contribution be made by them by way of a fee, so that the money thus collected can be utilized for the improvement of other places. So, it is not quite relevant to bring in other issues here.

"Then, Sir, the hon. Member from Salem, Mr. M. G. Natesa Chettiyar, said that it was unconstitutional, if I remember aright. Perhaps, Sir, his knowledge of constitution might be very intimate. But, so far as I know it is not unconstitutional."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—"Exploitation."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"Then, so far as exploitation is concerned, I should say, it does not come with very good grace from my hon. Friend. Whether he likes it or not, he belongs to a particular class of people, namely, the zamindari class, whose reputation in this State has been well-known and to call other people as exploiters, comes with ill-grace from him.

"Then, Sir, so far as this particular Bill is concerned, it is intended to help the State so that those people who are benefited may contribute partly for the betterment of the people in other areas. According to this Bill, the Government seek to collect from those people who have benefited at State expense, part of that money, to be utilized for bettering the lot of other people. That is the simple rationale behind this measure."

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MR. SPEAKER :—"I will now put the motion of the hon. Member, Mr. Viswanatham, to the vote of the House. The question is—

"That the House do postpone the consideration of this Bill and pass on to the business next in order."

The motion was lost.

MR. SPEAKER :—"We will now proceed with the main motion."

* SRI K. BHASHYAM :—"Sir, I do not proposed to go into the constitutional question that has been raised, but I want to refer only to one or two portions of the Bill which will perhaps throw some light upon the matter. For instance, if we take clause 4 of the proposed Bill, it will be found that the District Collector is the person who is to determine the contribution payable and he shall take into account the increase in the capital value as estimated in the prescribed manner. So much so, whatever contribution is fixed by the District Collector has to bear a certain proportion to the increase in the capital value of the land concerned. Therefore, to the extent to which this clause works, it looks as if the Government is made a partner with the landowner in regard to the increase in the capital value of the land, so that they take away a portion of the increase as a partner with the landowner. I do not suggest that there is anything immoral or wrong about it. But, that is a different matter altogether. It is unconstitutional but because you have given a ruling on that, I do not want to go against your ruling. I only want to point out two matters in this connexion. One is the question of contribution is left to the District Collector and the other is instructions to be given to the District Collector. But, how the amount of contribution is to be fixed is a matter left to the rules to be framed. I would suggest that the Government themselves fix it even in the Bill, say, a certain proportion of the increase in value, such as 20, 25 or 50 per cent rather than leave it to be fixed under the rules, so that the Collector can act, because nowhere in the Bill I find the District Collector has to take a definite portion of the increase in capital value. The Bill is very defective in that respect. I hope the Select Committee will look into the matter and see what can be done.

(At this stage Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

"I think it is dangerous in these days to leave it to be determined in the 'prescribed' manner, as stated in the Bill. The trend of general opinion seems to be that while distributing poverty among people, the poor will be made poorer and the rich also poor. I would, therefore, like that everything be made perfectly clear in the Act itself.

"The next point is this. The benefit derived and to be taken into consideration may be from a project that has been finished so long ago as 1943—nearly eight years back. It may be noticed in the first instance that the construction of new channels or irrigation works or improvement of tanks is not left to the person concerned.

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There is no option to the person to say that he does not want the improvement or that he cannot pay the heavy fee. Though it may be beneficial to him generally, certain persons may require the improvement, while certain others may not require it and they would rather like to be under the old arrangement, because they could not afford to pay the fee, being poor. Therefore, there is no option in the case of such persons in that you make the improvement and thrust it on them. Under the Irrigation Act, whether the person wants the benefit or not, he is bound to pay for it. There is another matter to consider. What happens is, even persons who have purchased lands at the increased value have to pay this betterment tax. They have to pay twice over for the same benefit and, therefore, the difficulty arises. And we know how it has created difficulties in the matter of payment of betterment tax for houses in the City of Madras. For instance, I buy a house to-day paying the full price at the market value or at the increased capital value, and the Corporation comes again and says, you must pay betterment fee also, which means, I have to pay twice the amount over the increased capital value of the house. Therefore, this difficulty is felt very largely by house-holders, especially the poor and middle-class people who have purchased houses at very heavy prices in the City of Madras. The same difficulty may arise in the matter of increase in value of agricultural land as well. Therefore, that is also one aspect of the matter which I hope the Select Committee will consider.

"Next, Madam, I would like to point out that it is difficult to exactly assess the capital value. In fact, it is speculative. How are you going to say that there has been an improvement in value due to irrigation or any other work, so that the capital value has increased by it alone? For instance, other economic factors also will come into play. Now, the prices of all things have gone up and so can you say, what the increase in value is due to and to what extent it has increased. On account of the general economic position and the increased cost, etc., it is difficult to find out what actually is the benefit that has been derived by new irrigation works. Therefore, for a person like the District Collector, it will be very difficult to fix the betterment fee. Of course, he may do it in a rough and ready way, but, I am afraid, it will be so rough that he will be doing an injustice to many persons, unless he is in a position to scientifically gauge the increase in value due to increase in prices and say what exactly the benefits of the irrigation works are.

"Then, the other point I would like to suggest is this. This Bill is supposed to be in accordance with the Land Revenue Reforms Committee's report. I can say at once that copies of the Committee's report were not available till recently and the recommendations made therein have not been made public, except in a general way. Of course, though we have been talking about this question of land levies, nobody seems to have directed his attention to this question of capital levy. The Government have not considered the other recommendations of the Committee and we do not know to

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what extent they would accept the other recommendations and so it would be lop-sided to take only one of the recommendations of the Committee for the acceptance of the House without making the House know the full picture of Government's intentions in respect of the other recommendations of the Committee. Therefore, I think, it is much better that the Bill goes before the Select Committee and by that time, I hope, the Government will have ample time to consider the report and come to conclusions so that the Select Committee will have a full picture to enable them to come to definite conclusions in respect of the various matters contained in the Bill."

JANAB MAHBQOB ALI BAIG :—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, this Bill deals with two classes of cases; first, betterment contribution and second, inclusion fee. We will be avoiding a lot of confusion if we clearly understand what this Bill stands for. There are people both inside this House and outside who plead that if an irrigation work is constructed and the ryot is taking water to the land, then he has to pay irrigation cess or tax, or whatever it is. This Bill does not deal with such cases, because that is a matter of engagement between the Government and the ryot, that is the Government supply water and the ryot pays the irrigation fee or tax for the water he takes. That is not to be taken into consideration in a Bill like the present one. What this Bill says is this. On account of the fact that a certain work has been constructed and facilities have been afforded to the owner of the land, there is an increase in the value of land. That has nothing to do with what the ryot pays for receiving water for any purpose. Therefore, if we have clearly before our mind what this Bill stands for, lot of criticism will be avoided.

"Now, the question is, whether we should, by legislation, 4 p.m. compel a person whose land has actually increased in value, to make a contribution or pay one-half of the increase. Whether such a contribution is unfair, illegal and unjustifiable is a different matter. Let us see whether we can compel a ryot, whose lands have increased in value solely on account of a particular work being undertaken by the Government at public cost, to pay betterment fee. Madam, Deputy Speaker, at first sight, it would appear unfair because the increase in value might be due to several causes. My hon. Friend, Sri Bhashyam, has also explained how under conditions of inflation prevailing in the country or by any other accident or other reason, the land values might increase. But if the value of the land has increased on account of the execution of the work and on account of that only, the question is whether a person who has benefited should or should not be compelled to pay some contribution. To my mind, it looks as though the wording is a little confused and I think it can be set right in the Select Committee. I think, Madam, the Government have got a right to ask the person whose land has increased in value to pay a contribution and the levy of the contribution by the Government is quite fair. But the most difficult matter is what should be the factors that should be taken into

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account in assessing the increase in value. In the Bill nothing has been mentioned about the factors that should be taken into account for determining the increase in value. That must be made quite plain in the Act itself and it must be stated that any increase in value to be taken into account for purposes of the contribution must be the direct consequence of the construction of the work and nothing else. If that is made clear, many of the difficulties will be solved. If it is not done, naturally what would happen will be this. When the Collector determines the increase in capital value of a particular land, he necessarily depends upon his staff for that purpose; he depends upon the Deputy Collector, the Tahsildar, the Revenue Inspector or even perhaps the karnam; it is these petty officials who, in the first instance, assess the increase in value. From my experience as a lawyer in many acquisition proceedings, I can say that the petty officials assess the value of the land at much less than its real worth. Here, there is a remedy in that the matter can be referred to the civil court which will scrutinize whether a correct assessment has been made by the Government officials or not. But here the civil courts are barred from finding out whether the assessment made by the Collector and his subordinates is correct or not. In a matter like this, my submission is that the Government on the one hand and the citizen on the other must be placed on an equal footing; where the citizen is asked to pay to the Government, the Government must prove that the assessment regarding the increase in the value of the land by its officers is correct and beyond question. I ask, Madam, why as in the case of acquisition proceedings by the Government, the matter should not be finally referred to the civil courts which will scrutinize whether the assessment has been correctly made or not? I find, Madam, that if there is an appeal against the orders of the Collector to the Board of Revenue, that will be final, until the matter is taken on a revision petition to the Government, on which the orders Government will pass will be final. That, Madam, Deputy Speaker, is very unfair so far as the citizen is concerned. The Collector, as I pointed out, Madam, must necessarily depend upon his staff; it may perhaps be the karnam who prepares the data and the assessment might be based on it. It is very unfair to the citizen. There is no reason why you should be the final judge and why not between you and the citizen, the court decide whether in this case where you are taking a compulsory contribution, the assessment has been correctly made as is done in the case of land acquisition? There are several instances like this. Take the sales tax; it is the civil court which decides whether the assessment is correct or not. Similar is the position with regard to income-tax cases also. It is the civil court that finally decides and I submit, Madam, that in a matter like this where the Government is interested in getting as much as possible and the Government is a party just as much as the citizen who has to pay, the final say must be with the civil courts. During the course of my professional work, I have known that in most land acquisition cases, the valuation given is much lower than the real worth of the lands and invariably the civil courts give a much higher sum. I am of the

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opinion, Madam, that the Government officials or even the Government for the matter of that should not be the final arbiters where the rights of the citizens are concerned and the Government themselves happen to be the other party in the dispute. The Government must so word the Bill that no other consideration should be taken into account except the consideration of the work having benefited the ryot and increased the value of his lands. That must be the criterion.

"There are two categories of cases: one is the levy of betterment contribution on account of works undertaken by the Government since the year 1943 up till now and the other in respect of those that will be taken up in future. In the case of work done in the past, Madam, it is a case of engagement between the Government and the citizen. If the Government takes the water to his fields on the understanding that he must pay some money towards the irrigation work, there is no objection to the Government taking the money. But if there was no understanding between the Government and the ryot that he should pay something extra to the water-rate, what happens? When you have done a thing to a certain person and he had no idea that besides the water-rate you are going to collect something more, we, lawyers, know how far your claim for the amount that you are going to collect over and above the water-rate would be sustainable in law and how far it would be legal. If, at the time the work was constructed, he had been given to understand that you are going to ask for something more than the water-rate, that is a different matter. The question is whether for what you have done in the past or accidentally his land has increased in value, there is a legal obligation on his part to pay the contribution. I can understand that you should make it clear that henceforward for any work to be done in future, the ryot will have to pay not only the water-rate but also other fees. It has got a legal basis and for the inclusion fee also, there is a legal basis because from dry the lands will come under the wet ayacut. My submission is, Madam, the question is perfectly legal so far as future acts are concerned but I am a little doubtful whether with regard to things of the past, the Government will be entitled to recover the betterment fee by this legislation. If the Government said, as they did in one particular instance, the project will come into being in a year or two and for your land to derive any benefit out of it, you must pay a contribution to the State, it is another matter, for it is a legal engagement between the Government and the ryot, as the ryot has been made to understand that besides water-rate, he would be asked to pay a betterment contribution. Unless he was told so, I am not sure how far he could be legally compelled to pay the betterment fee.

"Madam, Deputy Speaker, on principle, I think there should be no objection at all for a Bill of this kind provided it is very definite and no loop-holes are allowed. It is on the clear understanding that this betterment fee will be levied in cases where the value of the land has been raised on account of the irrigation work done by the Government, that I support this Bill."

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p.m.

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There is no option to the person to say that he does not want the improvement or that he cannot pay the heavy fee. Though it may be beneficial to him generally, certain persons may require the improvement, while certain others may not require it and they would rather like to be under the old arrangement, because they could not afford to pay the fee, being poor. Therefore, there is no option in the case of such persons in that you make the improvement and thrust it on them. Under the Irrigation Act, whether the person wants the benefit or not, he is bound to pay for it. There is another matter to consider. What happens is, even persons who have purchased lands at the increased value have to pay this betterment tax. They have to pay twice over for the same benefit and, therefore, the difficulty arises. And we know how it has created difficulties in the matter of payment of betterment tax for houses in the City of Madras. For instance, I buy a house to-day paying the full price at the market value or at the increased capital value, and the Corporation comes again and says, you must pay betterment fee also, which means, I have to pay twice the amount over the increased capital value of the house. Therefore, this difficulty is felt very largely by house-holders, especially the poor and middle-class people who have purchased houses at very heavy prices in the City of Madras. The same difficulty may arise in the matter of increase in value of agricultural land as well. Therefore, that is also one aspect of the matter which I hope the Select Committee will consider.

"Next, Madam, I would like to point out that it is difficult to exactly assess the capital value. In fact, it is speculative. How are you going to say that there has been an improvement in value due to irrigation or any other work, so that the capital value has increased by it alone? For instance, other economic factors also will come into play. Now, the prices of all things have gone up and so can you say, what the increase in value is due to and to what extent it has increased. On account of the general economic position and the increased cost, etc., it is difficult to find out what actually is the benefit that has been derived by new irrigation works. Therefore, for a person like the District Collector, it will be very difficult to fix the betterment fee. Of course, he may do it in a rough and ready way, but, I am afraid, it will be so rough that he will be doing an injustice to many persons, unless he is in a position to scientifically gauge the increase in value due to increase in prices and say what exactly the benefits of the irrigation works are.

"Then, the other point I would like to suggest is this. This Bill is supposed to be in accordance with the Land Revenue Reforms Committee's report. I can say at once that copies of the Committee's report were not available till recently and the recommendations made therein have not been made public, except in a general way. Of course, though we have been talking about this question of land values, nobody seems to have directed his attention to this question of capital levy. The Government have not considered the other recommendations of the Committee and we do not know to

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what extent they would accept the other recommendations and so it would be lop-sided to take only one of the recommendations of the Committee for the acceptance of the House without making the House know the full picture of Government's intentions in respect of the other recommendations of the Committee. Therefore, I think, it is much better that the Bill goes before the Select Committee and by that time, I hope, the Government will have ample time to consider the report and come to conclusions so that the Select Committee will have a full picture to enable them to come to definite conclusions in respect of the various matters contained in the Bill."

JANAB MAHBQOB ALI BAIG :—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, this Bill deals with two classes of cases; first, betterment contribution and second, inclusion fee. We will be avoiding a lot of confusion if we clearly understand what this Bill stands for. There are people both inside this House and outside who plead that if an irrigation work is constructed and the ryot is taking water to the land, then he has to pay irrigation cess or tax, or whatever it is. This Bill does not deal with such cases, because that is a matter of engagement between the Government and the ryot, that is the Government supply water and the ryot pays the irrigation fee or tax for the water he takes. That is not to be taken into consideration in a Bill like the present one. What this Bill says is this. On account of the fact that a certain work has been constructed and facilities have been afforded to the owner of the land, there is an increase in the value of land. That has nothing to do with what the ryot pays for receiving water for any purpose. Therefore, if we have clearly before our mind what this Bill stands for, lot of criticism will be avoided.

"Now, the question is, whether we should, by legislation, 4 p.m. compel a person whose land has actually increased in value, to make a contribution or pay one-half of the increase. Whether such a contribution is unfair, illegal and unjustifiable is a different matter. Let us see whether we can compel a ryot, whose lands have increased in value solely on account of a particular work being undertaken by the Government at public cost, to pay betterment fee. Madam, Deputy Speaker, at first sight, it would appear unfair because the increase in value might be due to several causes. My hon. Friend, Sri Bhashyam, has also explained how under conditions of inflation prevailing in the country or by any other accident or other reason, the land values might increase. But if the value of the land has increased on account of the execution of the work and on account of that only, the question is whether a person who has benefited should or should not be compelled to pay some contribution. To my mind, it looks as though the wording is a little confused and I think it can be set right in the Select Committee. I think, Madam, the Government have got a right to ask the person whose land has increased in value to pay a contribution and the levy of the contribution by the Government is quite fair. But the most difficult matter is: what should be the factors that should be taken into

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DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member, Mr. N. S. Varadachari, will now speak."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Why should he speak again."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, the hon. Member opposite asks me, why I am rising to speak again. He knows that I only discussed the constitutional aspect of the question."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is entitled to speak again."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I am glad the Deputy Speaker has cleared up the position."

"I wish to speak on the merits of the Bill as distinguished from the purely constitutional aspect of the Bill. I generally support the Bill for two reasons. In the present time, we are compelled to take capital works on revenue account also unlike in the past when all capital works were undertaken from loans, the difference being this, that a part of the expenditure on capital works—I do not mean the whole of it—casts a burden on the present generation of tax-payers which may not be spread over to the coming generation. If works are done on Loans Account, it means that the present beneficiaries will not simply throw away the burden on the tax-payer of to-day but will spread it over perhaps two or three generations, if it happens to be a long-term loan programme. We know that there is no escape from this position in the present state of finances of our State. It is so even in the Centre, for we know that a very large part of capital expenditure on railways and such other projects is being met from current revenues. That is really the origin or rather the cause for this Bill. If particular ayacutdars or particular owners of land wish to benefit by any scheme to be started in the present on the basis of the loan taken for that purpose which would fetch income for the State, it will have to be wiped out by means of Sinking Funds set apart for the purpose and also interest on the loans. But if it is taken from revenue account, it means that we are straining the revenues of this State for the purpose of immediate benefit to the persons mentioned by me. Supposing, it is an irrigation channel or a drainage work or even raising the full tank level of the big tanks of this State, it means that these people who are owners of land and who get water for their lands either for raising two crops where only one crop could be raised or for raising a wet crop where only one that was dry could be raised, certainly stand as beneficiaries as against others who are paying in the present and we propose to confer a lot of amenities on them. That is the object of this Bill."

"Now, Madam, let me come to another aspect of the case. It is, I think, called a 'capital levy' by some critics. Capital levy, in my opinion, is this. If the total value of land, for instance, is taken as it stood even to-day and then a slice of it is asked for irrespective of what amenity is provided, it would certainly be

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capital levy. The criticism is this. How can you take a betterment contribution on the basis of the capital cost of the land or the betterment in the capital cost of the land? I suggest that, instead of the provisions as they stand in clauses 3 and 4, in order to cut across all such criticisms, the Government should prescribe a maximum of so many hundreds of rupees per acre, considering the cost of the capital work to be taken into account. Account need not be taken of the betterment of the capital value of the land but we should take into account the cost of the execution of a particular scheme which will benefit the owners of land and then take a betterment contribution on that basis subject to a maximum of so many hundreds of rupees per acre. This may be flexibly done. In the case of a project which may cost crores of rupees, maximum may be adopted but in the case of a project which may not cost so much, the Collector may be empowered to levy a betterment fee only to the extent that would be necessary in the case. I suggest to the Hon. Minister to examine this position and see if it will not cut across all criticisms in respect of both the constitutional and general issues. If that is done, it would be easy to overcome such criticism. As was just heard from my hon. Friend Mr. Bhashyam, it would be difficult to determine what portion of the betterment is due to the execution of a particular capital work as against the betterment that might have accrued as a result of the general prosperity in the country as a whole. Several causes and several factors operate in increasing the capital value of the land. One of the factors is the provision of water or the execution of a drainage scheme. For instance, it may prevent the land from being flooded or may reclaim a marsh into good cultivable land. Therefore, I suggest that clauses 3 and 4 of this Bill be carefully gone into and the words 'take into consideration the capital value of the land' be omitted and that the District Collector may be asked to take into account the cost of the work which in the present has to be executed out of sheer necessity or out of compulsion, because owners of land desire it immediately. Take, for instance, a case like the one which I mentioned a few days ago in this House—the Dharapuram-Udamalpet Project. It is, I know, a thoroughly famine-stricken tract. If this project is executed now, the Government would certainly be justified in levying the maximum prescribed in the Bill and call it 'betterment contribution'. There is also justification for levying the tax from 1943 onwards to the extent that capital works were not carried on out of loans but out of current revenues of the State. This could be easily calculated and we know the capital cost of each work done from 1943. We can assess the benefit. There is no speculation here. There are no speculative values to be taken into consideration but only hard facts. Then, we can determine the cost in each case. The Collector may be allowed to determine, subject to an appeal to the Government, how much could be levied on each acre of land. Otherwise, there will be all sorts of other issues, such as representation to exempt poor people, to exempt owners of land below

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a particular minimum acreage and all that. Therefore, if clauses 3 and 4 are reconstructed in the manner suggested by me, it will cut across all this kind of criticism.

"Now, Sir, I come to inclusion fees. I think 'the inclusion fees' are well known in this State. The Board of Revenue was levying inclusion fees under the old British administration. In the Godavari delta and in the Krishna delta, inclusion fee was levied on new land brought into the *ayacut*. Even the Government have decided that it will apply only to particular blocks of land, say, to 5,000 acres in a particular area. If the same irrigation source could supply a little more, say, 500 acres, those 500 acres of land can be brought not merely under the betterment contribution but also under the inclusion fee. I think, the adoption of this measure can be justified because we have to build up irrigation works in this State in order to make up the food deficit. It may not make up the whole of it. We must collect the whole of the betterment contribution so as to cover a part however small the capital cost of the works and it will show the earnestness which particular areas will bring to bear on their own requests for supply of water. This will help materially in the Government determining priorities. People, whose anxiety is betrayed by the fact that they were ready and willing to pay betterment contribution to the Government even before the betterment levy is introduced, should be given priority over those who are slack and who wish to take advantage of their influence on the Government and merely rest on their oars and finally await to see whether the Government come to their help and spend money out of current revenues. If I am a tax-payer and if I am paying for the amenities which will benefit the entire State and not particular sections in an increased manner, then I say, there is ample justification for my demand that, having cast the burden on me please ask these owners of land or these cultivators who expect to get increased benefits, to pay a part as betterment contribution. It is not as if we are going to execute every project from revenue account. A part of the cost will be financed from loans and part will be financed out of grants from the Centre and only a small part will be asked to be financed from the people who are going to be benefited by the execution of these schemes. Therefore, there is ample justification for a measure of this kind in view of the reasons stated by me. I heartily support this Bill and the principles underlying it, though there is a lot to be said about the necessity for amending particular sections of the Bill when it goes to the Joint Select Committee from this House."

4-30
p.m.

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I congratulate the Government for having brought this Bill before the House. For we have a national plan planned out for the prosperity and all-sided progress of the nation; and so, this State also has to execute its portion for the welfare of the people of this State. According to the five-year plan, irrigation is one of the most important items. To say that we should not think of any new taxes, because the elections are coming, is to show timidity.

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(Laughter.) We have to do our duty. This Assembly and the Government that represents the Assembly have to do their duty, though, of course, with regard to certain things, we may postpone for some time to come in view of the immensity of the programme. So, that is a different matter. But this is a simple Bill we have now before us. Even now, ryots are coming forward to pay something by way of voluntary contributions, if water is given to them or if an irrigation work is constructed for their benefit. But what happens actually is, while some people come forward to pay, others keep quiet, which tantamounts to unwillingness to pay, and there is no means of compelling such people to pay, with the result that we have to depend entirely on the generosity of those who come forward and pay. It is generally people who are benefited more by any irrigation scheme, big people often, who do not come forward to contribute. Therefore this Bill seeks to control all people who are benefited to make their contribution for the irrigation or extension of irrigation of their areas. So I do not understand how any constitutional objection could be raised against such a thing. There is provision provided for the levy of water-rate, for giving water-supply, for effecting land improvement in the Constitution Act in items 17 and 18 of the State List. So when a Government wants to supply water, it can put its own terms. Therefore, this Government says 'I shall give water, for which, I shall levy a tax.' I want some contribution for the constructions and the irrigation work. That is, Government are asking the people to pay something in return for the benefit they confer. So, there is nothing unconstitutional in this. It is a simple thing. (Laughter.)

"Madam, the Bill is properly framed. When a particular irrigation work has to be executed, the total cost of the work is taken into account and is distributed among the ryots to be benefited from that work. Nothing exceeding that cost is taken from the ryots."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—"No, it is not so."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—"No, I have seen it in the Bill. I would request the hon. Member to read the clause dealing with contribution. Even if it is not there, it can be put in, in the Select Committee stage." (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"No, it is contained in clause 4 of the Bill."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—"Yes, I am correct always. (Laughter.) So the total cost of the scheme is taken into account before the ryots are asked to make their contribution. So it is evident, Government are not going to do anything arbitrarily. They are not unwise enough to become unpopular by it. 'Give us water, give us irrigation facilities?' That is the cry of landowners. So, there is no difficulty in the principle of levying betterment tax, though fifty per cent may be too much; but, that may be considered in the Select Committee stage. In my humble opinion when there is an improved irrigation source for land, the value of the

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land also increases, and whether there has been any improvement to the land or not can be easily ascertained. In some cases, dry lands, by digging deep and then levelling them, could be converted into wet lands.

"Then, I wish to advert to one more point. I would suggest but instead of asking the already over-burdened Collector of the district to decide the amount of contribution to be paid by each and every ryot, it may be left to the Deputy Collector or a Special Officer deputed for the purpose. That may be done in the Select Committee stage. For, the clause as it stands may cause hardship, as that function may be delegated to the Tahsildar or Revenue Inspector or karnam. I want a Deputy Collector, and nobody below that grade should do this work; and then, an appeal may lie to the Board of Revenue and the Government."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—"Why not to the civil courts?"

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—"Why should we allow this matter to go to the court and involve both the Government and the ryot in prolonged litigation? So I am against it."

"Then, Madam, one thing more, I want to say. The hon. Gentleman Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig said that this Bill involves compulsory acquisition of land. I must confess, I do not see anything like that in the Bill. Of course, he is an intelligent man, he is a big lawyer (laughter); but he has overlooked the provision dealing with the man who is not willing to pay the contribution."

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG :—"I did not say that this Bill involves compulsory acquisition. I said, on the analogy of the Land Acquisition Act, where civil courts decide the matter finally, in this matter also, the civil courts may be vested with jurisdiction to decide what increased value the land has acquired."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—"Then, Madam, I wish to say one thing more. This Bill gives a concession to the owner of land. Suppose he is not able to borrow, suppose he is not able to get money, suppose he is not able to pay his contribution in cash—of course, there will be instalment system in the payment of contribution in the case of extremely poor people—it is open to the party to give up a small slice of his holding by way of contribution. So there is nothing wrong in such a provision in the Bill. It is only equitable and proper to do so. So I support this Bill wholeheartedly."

* SRI K. R. KARANTH :—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I am very sorry I have to oppose this Bill, though on the question of levy, I submitted during the discussion on His Excellency the Governor's Address that I would support a Bill for the levy of betterment fees. Madam, this Bill has been published two days after that speech of mine. I see its provisions are far from being simple or innocent, as was mentioned by the previous speaker and some before him. I say, if it gets passed by the support which Government has got, even from unexpected quarters, it will put

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an end to all hopes of schemes of irrigation being welcomed in any part of this State. There has been recently a great deal of enthusiasm evinced by people with regard to irrigation schemes, and they have been looking forward for their fruition. But if this Bill is passed, I do not think they will welcome them, as I shall show presently why. It will create a scare in them. First of all, I would submit, no Government ought to come forward with a Bill to arm themselves with such extraordinary powers. In the first place with regard to the retrospective aspect of the treasure, the objections raised by certain friends in this House, namely, that it would be unjust to levy the tax from 1943 onwards irrespective of the written agreements in certain schemes is a very valid objection. There is no provision to meet that objection in this Bill. Madam, there are many cases in which, I know, where people had agreed in writing that they would give Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 per acre towards the cost of the scheme. Now, in such cases of sharing the cost, to ask those people to pay over again on something more in the form of betterment fee is very unjust. It is a thing which they had not bargained for. If they had known this before, they might not have gone in for the scheme.

"Then, Madam, with regard to the levy of betterment fee under clause 3, I would say that the distinction which was sought to be drawn by the hon. Gentleman Mr. Varadachari, namely, that it is not in all cases that Government will claim to levy this fee, but it is only in some cases, that is, in those cases where money has been spent from the revenue account and not in cases where they are financed by loans or by grants from the Government of India and so on—all this does not find a place in clause 3. There is no warrant for such presumptions, and so it is no good making presumptions which are not in the Bill. Then, Madam, there are certain aspects in which the Bill has to be improved. Suppose there is a loan raised for a particular scheme, which costs over a lakh of rupees and it is a scheme which pays itself fully by Government levying water-rate of 5 or 6 per cent, I ask, is it proper and just to demand anything more from the people concerned by way of betterment fee? In this way, when the entire cost of the scheme is being reimbursed, how the State is put to any loss is what I fail to understand. Therefore, I ask, is it just, is it proper for the Government to levy this betterment contribution. As has been said by some previous speakers, there is no reference in the Bill to the cost alone of the scheme being recovered by way of betterment levy. In a particular scheme the cost of the scheme may be two lakhs of rupees, and the State may not have spent a single pie from the general revenues; in such cases, it was said, by Mr. Varadachari, that Government are not going to levy a betterment fee. I submit there is nothing in this Bill to warrant such a presumption."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—"That is not what I said."

* SRI K. R. KARANTH :—"I can only deal with things said here. That is what he said. He may refer to the report of his

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speech, if he wants. He said, it is only in some cases levy would be made from the people. He suggested that it would be only in cases where money has been spent from the general revenues that the betterment fee is sought to be levied; and not in cases where the schemes are financed from loans or grants secured from the Government of India."

Sri N. S. VARADACHARI :—"No, no. On a point of personal explanation, Madam."

* Sri K. R. KARANTH :—"I am very sorry, I do not yield. Madam, I am dealing with speeches that were made here. The hon. Gentleman said that in regard to loans and grants with which schemes are financed, Government are not likely to ask for anything, but only when money is spent from the general revenues of the State. (Sri N. S. Varadachari indicated dissent.) There is no use of nodding dissent and trying to contradict me. I am not lacking in intelligence to understand what the hon. Member said. I submit, Madam, this distinction that is sought to be made is not in this Bill. Here is an engine of oppression sought to be given into the hands of the Government, and there is no use of thinking, that hereafter all those who would work this measure will be guided by the same motives as were expressed by some speakers here. What I mean to say is, let us take the Bill as it is, and the clauses as they stand and see what meaning they have I submit. I fail to see in them the meaning or presumptions assumed by the hon. Members. Now, Madam, in the case of a scheme financed by a loan, which pays itself fully by paying five per cent or six per cent interest by means of a water-rate, is not a deficit one in any manner. So, I ask, 'where is the justification for Government asking for any sort of contribution whatsoever?' I quite realize the justice of levying a betterment contribution in respect of irrigation works which do not pay themselves fully like the Manimuthar Project about which we have heard so much. The Government would be collecting water-rate from the beneficiaries of such projects. If the projects are not paying fully even then, I agree to the levy of a betterment contribution but only to the extent of the loss or deficit suffered by the State. In any case the contribution should have reference only to the cost of the scheme and not to the increase in the value of the land which is only a fictitious thing and may depend upon several factors.

"I had occasion to go into the question of betterment contribution in connexion with the enquiry by the Town-Planning Enquiry Committee of 1947. The Town-Planning Act of 1920, under which town-planning schemes are executed contains safeguards against any arbitrary levy of betterment contribution. The amount of the betterment contribution is not left to the decision of the Government or their officers, but to an independent arbitrator. I know that in some cases very independent persons sometimes even Judges have been appointed as arbitrators. Any party aggrieved by the decision of the arbitrator may appeal to the District Judge concerned and get the decision modified. Betterment contribution was levied not only with reference to the

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increase in the value of the property directly due to the execution of the town-planning scheme but also with reference to the increase due to indirect causes like the inflationary process. People in Theagarayanagar had to pay heavy sums by way of betterment contribution and several questions were put in this House about it. I understand that the Government passed an order that the betterment contribution should have reference only to the cost of the scheme and not to any extraneous consideration. This was two years ago and I do not know whether this order is in force now. My point is that the considerations to which the betterment contribution will bear reference should be specified. There is no meaning in saying that the Government shall not take more than one-half of the increase in value. The hon. Gentleman Sri Kaleswara Rao said that he was always correct and never wrong. He referred to the proviso to clause 4. It says—

'Provided that the contribution shall in no case exceed one-half of such increase.'

What is the increase? Clause 4 says—

'Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, the District Collector shall determine the contribution payable in respect of each of the lands mentioned in Section 3, after taking into account the increase in its capital value as estimated in the prescribed manner.'

This is a wonderful Bill! The amount is not defined and the rules are not known. After all, there is a limit to anybody agreeing to anything brought before this House. We must evince a greater sense of responsibility because the whole lot of the people of this State who benefit by the schemes executed in the past or going to be executed in the future is going to be affected by this Bill. Let us therefore think not once but ten times before giving our assent.

The District Collector is given the power to determine the contribution payable. The hon. Gentleman Sri Kaleswara Rao thinks that the Collector is too big for the job and suggests that a Special Deputy Collector will do. I am thankful to him that he has not gone down to the Tahsildar or Revenue Inspector. I am asking in all seriousness whether the determination of the amount of the contribution which may be to the tune of hundreds and thousands of rupees should be left to the District Collector, especially when the data to which the contribution will bear reference are not specified. I am very sorry that his support of the Government should go to this extent. I submit that clause 4 is very unjust because the contribution is not relative to the cost of the scheme and the return to the Government by the levy of water-rate. The contribution may be levied even if the cost of the scheme is fully reimbursed. The increase in value may be due to extraneous causes like the laying of a railway line nearby or a new road or the springing up of a new town. Unfortunately every Bill brought before the House is arming the executive with absolute powers.

"Coming to clause 5, it is illusory to say that the Collector shall invite and consider the objections. Some hon. Friends here said: 'The persons may not be harassed; they will have to pay only a small amount.' It is very nice to say that. Let them not

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forget that, whatever be the amount and however arbitrarily it may be fixed, it shall be recoverable as if it were an arrear of land revenue, and not only a slice but even the whole of the land is likely to be lost.

"I revert to clause 3. For levying the betterment contribution, the source from which the money is got for executing the scheme is immaterial. The hon. Gentleman Sri N. S. Varadachari wanted to look into the source from which the money comes."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—"I never said so."

* SRI K. R. KARANTH :—"Then the proper course is to verify from the official report of his speech. But I can only go by my recollection."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member may say what he wants to say without mentioning names."

* SRI K. R. KARANTH :—"For one scheme the Government may spend from their current revenue, for another scheme they may raise a loan and for yet another scheme they may get a grant from the Government of India. It all depends upon the exigencies of the Government. So far as the beneficiaries are concerned, the source of money should make no difference. The sole criterion must be the reimbursement of the entire sum spent on the scheme by the Government. Even if the Government are able to recover the cost together with interest, under the Bill they can still collect betterment contribution without limit. Therefore I say that clause 3 is unjust."

"What I object to most seriously are clauses 7 and 8. Against the decision of the Collector, an appeal to the Board of Revenue and a revision petition to the Government are provided. I do not know why the Government want to be bothered with thousands of revision petitions that may come up from interested parties. I do not think it advisable for the Government to take up the power. Our predecessors, the framers of the Town-Planning Act, were wiser and they never wanted this power to be vested in the Government. People will be tempted to put in revision petitions and bring all sorts of pressure to bear. Therefore for heaven's sake let not the Government have this power. The appeal to the Board of Revenue is illusory. Why should not the wholesome method of appointing an independent arbitrator and providing for an appeal to a court adopted in the Town-Planning and similar Acts be adopted in this Act also? The hon. Member who spoke before me does not want appeal to the court. It is strange to see that he has lost faith in court. (Interruption by Sri A. Kaleswara Rao.) We are glad to hear that he had no faith in courts all the time."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—"Madam, I rise on a point of order."

SRI K. R. KARANTH :—"I am very sorry that the hon. Member says that he is rising on a point of order."

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SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—"The point of order is that wrong things are attributed to me. I may point out that even in respect of the other Bills I never said that there should be provision for appeal to the court. Some other Members might have said so. I do not bother about courts. I want equitable justice in a simple manner and short time."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"This is only a personal explanation. The hon. Member Sri Karanth may continue and speak in a general way without referring to the speech of any particular Member."

* SRI K. R. KARANTH :—"It is the right of every Member to accept or refute the arguments advanced by the previous speakers. The hon. Member who preceded me said that court was not the proper forum. It is my humble right to say that that view is not correct."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"Let the hon. Member say what he thinks about the Bill. If he refers to the speeches of other Members, they want to make personal explanations."

SRI K. R. KARANTH :—"It has been common in any debate to answer the arguments of previous speakers."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"Then let him be prepared to yield to listen to their personal explanation."

* SRI K. R. KARANTH :—"What I am saying is that in respect of the betterment contribution, there must be an independent arbitrator or tribunal with the right of appeal to a court against his decision. The position should not be in the manner provided by the Bill."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member has just two more minutes."

SRI K. R. KARANTH :—"I shall try to finish within the time. I see that the Deputy Speaker is very strict."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"No, I have been very lenient."

* SRI K. R. KARANTH :—"Let not even these two minutes be taken away."

"Clause 13 provides for the recovery of inclusion fee. When once a betterment contribution is levied, I cannot understand the levy of an inclusion fee also. Certain lands will come under the inclusion fee and also the betterment contribution. Nowhere is it said that there shall be no inclusion fee in respect of lands for which betterment contribution is levied."

"As the Bill stands, I say that it is very unsatisfactory."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 29th August 1951.

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APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 38 asked by Sri P. Venkatasubbiah at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 28th August 1951, page 206 supra.]

G.O. No. 645, Revenue, dated 20th March 1951.

Assessment—Land revenue—Fasli 1360—Drought-affected areas in the Madras State—Remission—Sanctioned.

READ—the following paper:—

From the Board of Revenue, B.P. Mis. No. 251, dated 26th February 1951, and Reference S. No. 3048/51-I, dated the 9th March 1951.

Order—No. 645, Revenue, dated 20th March 1951.

The Government sanction the following proposals of the Board of Revenue in regard to the grant of wet and dry remissions for fasli 1360 on a liberal scale as indicated below in the entire area or parts of the districts of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Kurnool, Nellore, Cuddapah, Anantapur, Bellary, Chittoor, Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Ramnathapuram, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Salem mentioned in the annexure to this order which have been affected by adverse seasonal conditions:—

(1) **Wet lands.**—(a) Full remission on wet lands with an outturn of four annas and below;

(b) No remission for wet lands with outturn above four annas.

(2) **Dry lands.**—(a) **Food crops.**—(i) Full remission for food crops with an outturn of four annas and below;

(ii) Half remission for food crops with an outturn of above four annas and below eight annas.

NOTE.—Food crops for the purpose of this order consist of cereals and pulses.

(b) **Other crops (crops other than cereals and pulses).**—(i) Full remission for crops with an outturn below four annas.

(ii) No remission for crops with an outturn of four annas and above.

The grant of remission to dry lands is subject to the condition that no other successful crop should have been harvested, a successful crop being treated as one which would not qualify for remission under these orders.

2. All wet fields on which, owing to inadequacy of water, a successful dry crop has been raised will be eligible for the remission of the difference between the wet and dry assessment as provided for in Board's Standing Order No. 13 (9).

3. Wet lands left waste owing to lack of supply in the irrigation sources are eligible for full remission, except for mamul wastes, in reckoning which however the three previous faslis should be excluded.

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4. Current wastes on dry lands, i.e., lands which are not mamul wastes, will also be eligible for remission.

5. The Board of Revenue is also requested to draw the attention of the Collectors of all affected districts to the provisions in Board's Standing Order No. 6 (5).

6. The Government direct that all the concessions in the matter of remission of land revenue sanctioned in the above paragraphs should be applied to those estates taken over by the Government, which are in the affected areas. The Board of Revenue is requested to instruct the Collectors of the affected districts to contact the landholders whose estates have not yet been taken over by the Government and to persuade them to grant, what in their opinion, will be a reasonable remission.

7. The Government agree with the Board of Revenue that it is not necessary to sanction remission of land-tax along with the remission of land revenue in the season-affected areas.

8. The Government also accept the recommendation of the Board of Revenue and direct that the entire land revenue on all dry lands in the estate taluks of Ramnathapuram Estate, namely, Old Sayalgudi, Kamudi, Mudukulathur, Sikkal and Paramakudi (the new estate taluks of Kamudi, Mudukulathur and Paramakudi) which were eligible for remission under G.O. No. 774, Revenue, dated 15th March 1950, be remitted.

9. The Government also accept the recommendation of the Board of Revenue and direct that the recovery of loan instalments in the affected tracts should be postponed to fasli 1361 both in the ryotwari areas as well as in the affected estates taken over by the Government. Summary recovery of loans under the Land Improvement Loans and Agriculturists Loans Acts should also be suspended in the affected areas during the current fasli.

10. The Board of Revenue is requested to report the financial effect of the orders mentioned above in due course.

(By order of His Excellency the Governor)

S. K. CHETTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

- .. Collectors of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Nellore, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur, Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Ramnathapuram, Tirunelveli, Salem and Coimbatore.
- .. Accountant-General (through the Finance Department).
- .. Finance Department.

Copy to the Director of Information and Publicity for issuing a Press Release.

[28th August 1951]

ANNEXURE.

Areas in the State affected by the adverse seasonal conditions during fasli 1300.

Areas affected/villages.

SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT.

(Wet only.)

Chesapurapalli taluk—Entire taluk.
Narasannapeta taluk—28 villages.

- 1 K. ndakottapeta.
- 2 R. Rajagodevala.
- 3 Makivala.
- 4 Jaturu.
- 5 Gangaram.
- 6 Chittivala.
- 7 Baidanna.
- 8 M. lagam.
- 9 Korhapeta.
- 10 Mahasabhapeta.
- 11 Borimajjalalam.
- 12 Simhadapuram.
- 13 Chellayavala.
- 14 Vaddipadu.
- 15 Boddavala.
- 16 Goliipalli.
- 17 Borubhadra.
- 18 G. lalam.
- 19 Kollapadu.
- 20 Lakkivala.
- 21 Sipuram.
- 22 R. Han manthapuram.
- 23 Kotabommali.
- 24 Ganjiliva.
- 25 Rahimanapuram.
- 26 Koduru.
- 27 Meghavaram.
- 28 Maruvada.

Tekkali taluk—39 villages.

- 1 Telagaram.
- 2 Rajagopalapuram.
- 3 Pathanoupada.
- 4 Nowpada.
- 5 Sethanapuram.
- 6 Vishnuchekram.
- 7 Sandipeta.
- 8 Pothinaidupeta.
- 9 Marripadu.
- 10 Devunathala.
- 11 Bhavanipadu.
- 12 Suryamanipuram.
- 13 Chesapurapalli.
- 14 Synuru.
- 15 U. danamarlapadu.
- 16 Dabbalapadu.
- 17 Mojjivada.
- 18 Buragam.
- 19 Jagutibilla.
- 20 Patra. rala.
- 21 Savaraneapuram.
- 22 Bhavanigam.
- 23 Ijjavaram.
- 24 Tatiparthi.
- 25 Dantha.
- 26 Satiapalli.
- 27 Kistapuram.
- 28 Balaramapuram.

Areas affected/villages.

SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT—cont.

(Wet only.)—cont.

Tekkali taluk—39 villages—cont.

- 29 Kannevala.
- 30 Taripe. a.
- 31 J. yanapeta.
- 32 Santhabomalli.
- 33 Govindapuram.
- 34 Dandugopalapuram.
- 35 Chela handra.
- 36 Naddithandra.
- 37 Jonnapadu.
- 38 Narasapuram.
- 39 V. dd. vada.

Sompeta taluk—65 villages.

- 1 Benkili.
- 2 Nukalam.
- 3 Koram.
- 4 Pottungi.
- 5 Malagovindapuram.
- 6 Hanamara.
- 7 Paligam.
- 8 Pedakota.
- 9 Chinakota.
- 10 Balaramapuram.
- 11 Talaguranti.
- 12 Rajapuram.

Jalandara Estate.

- 1 Booragam.
- 2 Chowkip. to.
- 3 Bh. anbhada.
- 4 Megalipeta.
- 5 Megalip. thuru.
- 6 Jalandarasompeta.
- 7 Makannapuram.
- 8 Saradapuram.
- 9 Khatla.
- 10 Gokannapuram.
- 11 Narayanapuram.
- 12 Snak. edi.
- 13 Koranjibhadra.
- 14 Jara. anda.
- 15 Vik. ampuram.
- 16 Basi.
- 17 Jedputugukothura.
- 18 Lammam.
- 19 Padmanab. apura.
- 20 Pedabhadra.
- 21 Vira Ramachandrapur.
- 22 Narayanahatti.
- 23 Hra. halli.
- 24 Kesipuram.
- 25 Jilendra.
- 26 Rek. Hadevipuram.
- 27 Rharatanarayanapur.
- 28 Rangumatiya.
- 29 Bonam. li.
- 30 Gopakeli.
- 31 Timmalanji.
- 32 Bhuvanapuram.
- 33 Kundalg.
- 34 Lagarakothura.
- 35 Jonnagam.

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Areas affected/villages.

SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT—cont.

(Wet only.)—cont.

Sompeta taluk—65 villages—cont.

Jalandara Estate—cont.

- 36 Sunkeli.
- 37 Ponkalo.
- 38 Arkkabhadra.
- 39 Kanakg.
- 40 Navarabhalangam.
- 41 Bodagam.
- 42 Lashimpuram.
- 43 Badagam.
- 44 Gangadharapur.
- 45 Narasannamukendapure.
- 46 Bhaliaputtung.
- 47 Pedasrirampuram.
- 48 Gollaputtugu.
- 49 Makarampore.
- 50 Arjunapuram.
- 51 Talabhadra.
- 52 Jakkara.
- 53 Bhimnalg.

VISHAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT.

(Wet only.)

Yellamanchili taluk—Entire taluk.

Vishakhapatnam taluk—Entire taluk.

Srungnarapur. eta taluk—Entire taluk.

Rheemuniapatnam taluk—Entire taluk.

Visanagarum taluk—Entire taluk.

CUDDAPAH DISTRICT.

(Wet and dry.)

Kamilapuram sub-taluk.

(a) Yerraguntla firka—9 villages.

- 1 Nudujuvvi.
- 2 Yerraguntla.
- 3 Valaspalle.
- 4 Kodur.
- 5 Kalamalla.
- 6 Chilamkur.
- 7 Tippalur.
- 8 T. Sunkesula.
- 9 Peddanapadu.

(b) Gangireddipalli firka—17 villages.

- 1 Keerthipalle.
- 2 Indukur.
- 3 Lingala.
- 4 Aninjala.
- 5 South Palagiri.
- 6 Gonamakulapalle.
- 7 Tangodupalli.
- 8 Veldurthi.
- 9 Payasampalle.
- 10 Alidina.
- 11 U. Rajupalem.
- 12 Ankireddipalli.
- 13 Shro. Ayyavaripalle.
- 14 Shro. Govindaraopalle.
- 15 Talapenur.
- 16 Kommadi.
- 17 Urutur.

Areas affected/villages.

CUDDAPAH DISTRICT—cont.

(Wet and dry.)—cont.

Jammalamadugu taluk.

(a) Muddanur firka—19 villages.

- 1 Chinnadulyala.
- 2 Yam. varam.
- 3 Chantakunta.
- 4 Boddalakunta.
- 5 R. Guruvayapalli.
- 6 K. mpa. li.
- 7 Thimmapuram.
- 8 Lingamunonipalle.
- 9 Channamunonipalli.
- 10 Velpucteria.
- 11 V. Raghavapuram.
- 12 Ped. adudiyala.
- 13 Muddanur.
- 14 K. Ko. hapalle.
- 15 Penkalapad.
- 16 Lavanur.
- 17 Aravotipalli.
- 18 Denepalle.
- 19 Nallaballi.

(b) Peddamudi. m firka—3 villages.

- 1 Digavakavatala.
- 2 Papayapalli.
- 3 Nagireddipalli.

(c) Tallapreddatur firka—1 village.

- 1 Konavaripalli.

Pulivendla taluk—Entire taluk.

Batvel taluk—Entire taluk.

(Wet only.)

Siddhout taluk—Entire taluk.

GUNTUR DISTRICT.

(Wet.)

Entire district—Non-deltaic.

(Dry.)

Vinukonda taluk.

- 1 Airavolu.
- 2 Andugu. ad.
- 3 Bollapalle.
- 4 Brahmanapalle.
- 5 Chintalacheruvu.
- 6 Dondap. tu.
- 7 Enugupalem.
- 8 Gan. ganamala.
- 9 Gok. nakonda.
- 10 Kambh. mpadu.
- 11 Gutlapalle.
- 12 Kanamajacheruvu.
- 13 Koppu. onda.
- 14 Mukkellapadu.
- 15 Mulakaluru.
- 16 Mri. tujapuram.
- 17 Nilagangavaram.
- 18 Nujenda.
- 19 Pamidipadu.
- 20 Perurupadu.

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Areas affected/villages.
GUNTUR DISTRICT—cont.
(Dry)—cont.
Vinukonda taluk—cont.

- 21 Piechikalapalam.
- 22 Putsanutala.
- 23 Puvvada.
- 24 Ravulapuram.
- 25 Talaripalle.
- 26 Timmayapalem.
- 27 Triourapuram.
- 28 Uppa apodu.
- 29 Vaddemgunta.
- 30 Vellaturu.
- 31 Vinukonda.

NELLORE DISTRICT.
(Wet and dry.)

Kanigiri and Udayagiri taluks—Entire taluks excluding the villages commanded by Mopad Reservoir.

Venkatagiri—Estate taluks of Podili, Marella and Kurushendu.

Pamur and Udayagiri estates—Comprised in Darzi, Podili, Kanigiri and Udayagiri Government taluks.

KURNOOL DISTRICT.
(Wet and dry.)
Kotilkuntla taluk.

- 1 Allur.
- 2 Langamdinne.
- 3 Thudumalidinne.
- 4 Mayalur.
- 5 Mukkamalla.
- 6 Gullathurthi.
- 7 Suddamalla.
- 8 Padigapad.
- 9 Pedda Kopperla.
- 10 Chinnu Kopperla.
- 11 Vallampad.
- 12 Nossam.

Bangalapalle sub-taluk.

- 1 Kamalapuri.
- 2 Bondalidinne.
- 3 Saugamala.
- 4 Eggone.
- 5 Mutchipuri.
- 6 Kanala.
- 7 Kathpalli.
- 8 Narsapalli.
- 9 Govindapalli.
- 10 Mudigodu.
- 11 Vittalapuram.
- 12 Giddalore.
- 13 Mangapalli.
- 14 Appalapuram.

Areas affected/villages.
BELLARY DISTRICT.
(Wet and dry.)
Bellary taluk.

- 1 Guttiganur.
- 2 Somasamudram.
- 3 See taragadda.
- 4 Kolur.
- 5 Vaddehatti.
- 6 Kurugodu.
- 7 Patna erugu.
- 8 Yemmiganur.
- 9 Nalludi.
- 10 Kolagali.

Rayadrug taluk.

- 1 Seetduragadda.
- 2 Brahmasamudram.
- 3 Bidurakontam.
- 4 Uddegolam.
- 5 Honnur.
- 6 Bennical.
- 7 Singanahalli.
- 8 Kolagonhalli.
- 9 Nagalapuram.
- 10 Elangi.
- 11 Doddagatta.
- 12 Meenahalli.
- 13 Garudachedu.
- 14 N. Hanumapuram.
- 15 Solapuram.
- 16 Hanakanehal.
- 17 M. Jayam.
- 18 Thumbiganur.

ANANTAPUR DISTRICT.
(Wet and dry.)
Tadpatri taluk.

- 1 Sajjaladinna.
- 2 Alur.
- 3 Challevaripalli.
- 4 Tadpatri.
- 5 Nandalapad.
- 6 Diguvaripalli.
- 7 Chinnapolamada.
- 8 Peddapolamada.
- 9 Ellutla.
- 10 Chintakayamanda.
- 11 Aravedu.
- 12 Bukkapuram.
- 13 Bojpepalli.
- 14 Chilamakur.
- 15 Yella ur.
- 16 Kacherlakunta.
- 17 Pathapalli.
- 18 Vennapusapalli.
- 19 Kallur.
- 20 Kodumurthi.
- 21 Jutur.
- 22 Narasapuram.
- 23 Kummtha.
- 24 Shrotriyam Jodidharmapuram.
- 25 Senagalagudur.
- 26 Puttur.
- 27 Gandlapad.
- 28 Arkatavemula.
- 29 Surepalli.

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Areas affected/villages.
ANANTAPUR DISTRICT—cont.
(Wet and dry)—cont.
Tadpatri taluk—cont.

- 30 Chalavemala.
- 31 Cherlopalli.
- 32 Kummamamala.
- 33 Madugupalli.
- 34 Chinnamallapalli.
- 35 Chintalapalli.
- 36 Vernulapalli.
- 37 Medakurthi.
- 38 Nittur.
- 39 Shrotriyam Peddamallepalli.
- 40 Komatikuntla.

Kalyandrug taluk.

- 1 Konamapalli.
- 2 Gangavaram.
- 3 Duddakunta.
- 4 Ankampalli.
- 5 Budigumma.
- 6 Yerragudi.
- 7 Thaguparthi.
- 8 Seerpi.
- 9 Avulanna.
- 10 Sreerangapuram.
- 11 Beluguppa.

(CHITTOOR DISTRICT.
(Wet and dry—Entire district.)

CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT.
(Wet and dry—Entire district.)

NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT.
(Wet and dry—Entire district.)

SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT.
(Wet—Entire district under tanks.)
(Dry.)

Qingee taluk.—Entire taluk.

Tindivanam taluk—Entire taluk.

Kallakurichi taluk.

- 1 Chinnasalem firka.
- 2 Vadakkanandal firka.
- 3 Kallakurichi firka.
- 4 Thyagadurgam firka.
- 5 Pakkam firka.
- 6 Sankarapuram firka.

Tirukkoyilur taluk.

- 1 Thiruvennainallur firka.
- 2 Mugaiyur firka.
- 3 Elavanasur firka.
- 4 Tirukkoyilur firka.

Villupuram taluk.

- 1 Kandamangalam firka.
- 2 Vikaravandi firka.

Areas affected/villages.
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT.
(Wet.)

Pudukkottai division—Alangudi, Kulathur and Tirumayam taluks.

Musiri taluk.

- 1 Tattaiyengarpet firka.
- 2 Thottiam firka—
(i) Appanallur.
(ii) Kulakudi.

(Dry.)

Pudukkottai division—Tirumayam taluk.

- 1 Sengirai firka.
- 2 Thirumayam firka.
- 3 Virachilai firka.
- 4 Karaiyur firka.

Musiri taluk.

- 1 Tattaiyengarpet firka.
- 2 Thottiam firka—
(i) Appanallur.
(ii) Kulakudi.

MADURA DISTRICT.
(Wet.)

Dindigul, Palni and Tirumangalam taluks—Entire taluks.

Periyakulam taluk.

- 1 Devadanapatti firka.
- 2 Andipatti firka.

Nilakkottai taluk.

- 1 Nilakkottai firka.
- 2 Batlagundu firka.
- 3 Palamedu firka.

(Dry.)

Dindigul, Palni and Tirumangalam taluks—Entire taluks.

Periyakulam taluk.

- 1 Devadanapatti firka.
- 2 Andipatti firka.

Madura taluk.

- 1 Tirupparankundram firka.
- 2 Avaniapuram firka.

Nilakkottai taluk.

- 1 Palamedu firka.
- 2 Nilakkottai firka.
- 3 Batlagundu firka.

[28th August 1951]

Areas affected/villages.

RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT.

(Wet and dry.)

Entire district except the following villages in Sivaganga taluk.

- 1 Manalur.
- 2 Tiruppuvanam.
- 3 Ladinendal.
- 4 Tiruppachetti.
- 5 Manamadurai.
- 6 Thuttikulam.
- 7 Kalukerkadai.
- 8 Madapuram.
- 9 Pottanendal.
- 10 Muthanendal.
- 11 Sirukudi.
- 12 Adikarai.
- 13 Chellappanendal.
- 14 Pappankulam.
- 15 Idaikattur.
- 16 Karungakottai.
- 17 Tattankulam.
- 18 Tudai.
- 19 Padinettankottai.
- 20 Rajagambiram.

TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT.

(Wet and dry.)

*Sankaranakoil taluk—Entire taluk.**Koilpatti taluk.*

- 1 Vilathikulam firka.
 - 2 Masarpatti firka.
- The following villages of Koilpatti firka :—
- (i) Iluppaiyurani.
 - (ii) Tittankulam.

Tirunelveli taluk.

- 1 Madavakurichi firka.
 - 2 The following villages of Gangaikondan firka :—
- (i) Soliyannallur.
 - (ii) Pallikottai.
 - (iii) Thenkulam.
 - (iv) Pirancheri.
 - (v) Chittarchattram.
 - (vi) Gangaikondan.
 - (vii) Pathinalamperi.
 - (viii) Talaiyuthu.

The following villages of Tirunelveli firka :—

- (i) Vaduganpatti.
- (ii) Sirukkankurichi.
- (iii) Siddaparpanallur.
- (iv) Karuvannallur.

Areas affected/villages.

COIMBATORE DISTRICT.

(Wet and dry.)

*Tiruppur, Palladam, Dharapuram and Udumalpet taluks—Entire taluks.**Avanashi (excluding Mettupalaiyam firka).**Erode taluk.*

- 1 Perundurai firka.
- 2 Chennimalai firka.
- 3 Uttukuli firka.
- 4 Sivagiri firka.

SALEM DISTRICT.

(Wet and dry.)

*Harur taluk—Uttangarai sub-taluk.**Dharmapuri taluk.*

- 1 Vellaigoundanpalayam.
- 2 Annasagar.
- 3 Virupakshipuram.
- 4 Hale Dharmapuri.
- 5 Kadagathur.
- 6 Madhuhalli.
- 7 Reddihalli.
- 8 Papinaickanahalli.
- 9 Settikarai.
- 10 Kuppur.
- 11 Naickanahalli.
- 12 Vellalapatti.
- 13 Andihalli.
- 14 Sekkodi.
- 15 Buganahalli.
- 16 Sellampatti.
- 17 Thandagam.
- 18 Mademangalam.
- 19 Leligam.
- 20 Buthanahalli.
- 21 Nallampatti.
- 22 Adamankottai.
- 23 A. Jettihalli.
- 24 Mallikuttai.
- 25 Baichuhalli.

Krishnagiri taluk (Mathur firka).

- 1 Mookampatti.
- 2 Sonnarahalli.
- 3 Rangampatti.
- 4 Somampatti.
- 5 Nagampatti.
- 6 Batrapalli.
- 7 Gandigampalli.
- 8 Kannandahalli.
- 9 Puligenta.
- 10 M. Gollahalli.
- 11 Sevvampatti.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 29th August 1951.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Fast by Swami Sitaram.

* 39-A Q.—SRI A. KALESWARA RAO (on behalf of Sri V. Raghavayya): Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any member of the Assembly has brought to the notice of the Government 'the fast unto death' by Swami Sitaram from 15th August 1951 at Tirupati in connection with the formation of the Andhra State;

(b) whether the Swami had an interview with the Hon. the Chief Minister and presented a written memorandum to the Government;

(c) whether the Government have forwarded the memorandum with their remarks to the Union Government; and

(d) whether any communication has been received from the Union Government; and if so, the purport of the same?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister):—“(a) The answer is in the negative, but the Government have received information from the Swamiji himself and from the Revenue Divisional Officer, Chandragiri, that the Swamiji is fasting.

“(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(c) An English translation of the Telugu memorandum was forwarded to the Hon. Prime Minister with the remarks of the Hon. Chief Minister.

“(d) A reply from the Hon. Prime Minister has been received. In it he has pointed out that the separation of a Province involves a large number of complicated questions relating not only to boundaries, but also to finances, administrative matters, judiciary, capital, etc., and that with the best will in the world and with every effort to that end it is quite impossible to form an Andhra State before the 2nd of October 1951 as suggested by Swami Sitaram. He has also stated that the Government of India are prepared to go forward with the scheme, in spite of the grave difficulties facing the country now, provided there is a wide measure of agreement to the principal questions involved and more or less agreed proposals are put before the Government of India.”

[29th August 1951]

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“ My I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that two Members of this House have given notice of adjournment motions in this connection? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ What has that to do here? I told the hon. Member that the adjournment motions were out of order. This question cannot be answered by the Hon. Minister, but it is for the Chair to answer.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“ The Hon. Minister stated that no Member had brought it to his notice. That is why I am putting this question, even though the adjournment motion may be out of order.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ When the notice of adjournment motion was handed over to me I said it was out of order.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“ Whether it came to his notice from the Press or from Swami Sitaram, I want to know from the Hon. Minister what the additional difficulties are that have sprung up during this one year odd while the Andhra State was almost ready even before the 26th January 1950 except for the fact that there was some difference of opinion with regard to the amount of compensation between one of the members of the Partition Committee and the rest.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ This question should be addressed to the Central Government. How can the Hon. Minister answer this question, I cannot understand. This is a Union subject.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“ Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House the communication containing the remarks of the Hon. the Chief Minister to the Central Government in this connection? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ In this connection, we have forwarded an English translation of the Swami's memorandum to the Hon. Prime Minister of India with a forwarding letter. I have no objection to read to the House the forwarding letter. It is not very long. The letter is as follows :—

My dear Prime Minister,

14th August 1951.

“ I enclose herewith, for your information, a translation of a representation in Telugu received by me from Swami Sitaram, better known to us as Sri Gollapudi Sitarama Sastri.

“ Swami Sitaram has stated that, if the Andhra State is not brought into existence by the 2nd October 1951, he would offer satyagraha, which, according to an earlier letter of his, “ might take the form of a long fast or a fast unto death or any other shape according to his inner urge and God's guidance ”. The Swamiji is a respected old Congressman, and commands some appreciable influence in the Circars, particularly in Guntur district. He has also stated that, as soon as he starts his satyagraha, others might resort to direct action in various forms such as resignations, refusal to pay taxes and ‘ currency boycott ’. It is unfortunate that such a respected old Congress leader should contemplate such action in regard to such a matter and at such a time. As far as we can see, there is definitely a possibility of his satyagraha and the other forms of direct action materialising as indicated by him, and if they do, it would undoubtedly be very embarrassing to the Government but law and order will have to be maintained.

[29th August 1951]

“ As you are aware, this Government have already done their very best to facilitate the formation of the Andhra Province, and there is nothing further they can do in the matter. The Policy and programme of action in regard to linguistic states are matters for the Government of India to lay down. I would request therefore, that the Government of India should take their decisions and announce formally their policy and programme of action in regard to the creation of the Andhra Province. I would also request you to write to Swami Sitaram and use your great influence and authority to persuade him not to launch his satyagraha.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“ May I ask, Sir, whether the Government have pressed upon the Government of India that the differences of opinion between the members of the Partition Committee with regard to compensation should be settled by arbitration by the Government of India? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ This letter is sufficiently pressing upon the Government of India. This letter was written after the Swami's memorandum was received.”

SRI P. NATESAN :—“ Is it the policy of the Government to take note of, and recognize, notices of fast unto death if they are given by members of political parties and by the public? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Every incident, major or minor, that is happening in the State must be duly taken notice of by the Government.”

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—“ If, according to the letter just now read by the Leader of the House, it is a matter for the Government of India, and this Government have done everything possible, why is it that the Hon. Chief Minister goes about saying that the formation of Andhra State is delayed owing to disunity among certain Andhras? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ According to the information the Hon. Chief Minister has, he has every right to say that.”

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—“ Sir, what were the special factors which made the Swamiji undertake the fast in Chittoor district, which is a quiet district, instead of Guntur where he is so popular? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ This question must be put to the Swamiji himself.” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ The hon. Member comes from Chittoor, and, therefore, he has put the question Sir.” (Renewed laughter.)

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH :—“ Are the Government aware of the fact that there is a large section of people in the Rayalaseema who are opposed to the early formation of the Andhra State? May I know from the Leader of the House whether this fact has been communicated to the Government of India? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ We are only acting as a sort of post office—a sort of liaison. Whatever is given to us will be duly forwarded to the appropriate department. We are also aware from newspaper reports here and there that there is some difference of opinion in Rayalaseema.”

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SRI K. VARADACHARI:—“Has any reply been received by this Government or have any queries been made to this Government?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“No queries have been made. But a reply was received on the 15th August itself. The forwarding letter was sent by this Government on the 14th August. Immediately a letter was received by the Hon. Chief Minister from the Hon. the Prime Minister. No queries were made in that letter.”

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“Sir, in view of the previous resolutions passed by this Legislature, and in pursuance of the general feeling in the country, particularly in Andhra and Karnataka, will the Government of Madras pursue the matter with the Central Government and suggest to them to take further steps as early as possible?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The Government of India are quite alive to the situation that has been created in Andhra and Karnataka. There are Members from Andhra and Karnataka who are agitating for the early formation of their respective States. We do not think there is anything for this Government now to press upon the Government of India, because they are themselves alive to the situation.”

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—“Are the views expressed in the forwarding letter of the Hon. Chief Minister his own or the opinion of the Andhra Ministers of the Government?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“There are no Andhra Ministers in the Government. We are all Madras Ministers governing the Madras State.” (Hear, hear.)

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—“May I ask, Sir, if the Government would be pleased to lay on the table of the House the Hon. Prime Minister's reply or read it out to the House if it is a short one?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I have got the letter. I have no objection to read it out. It covers one full page.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“I have no objection to the Hon. Minister reading the letter.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“There is no hiding the fact, Sir. I want to give the fullest regard to the views of Members. The letter is as follows:—

NEW DELHI,
15th August 1951.

My dear Chief Minister,

1. I have your letter of the 14th August about Swami Sitaram. I am sorry to learn of his intention to undertake a long fast or a fast unto death in order to bring about the formation of an Andhra Province. Personally I am entirely opposed to bringing in fasting as a method of finding a solution for political problems. In this particular case this seems to me specially uncalled for.
2. The Election Manifesto of the Congress referred to the question of linguistic provinces. The Government of India is prepared to accept that in toto. The question is therefore that more or less agreed proposals should be put forward

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before the Government of India. I do not mean that everybody should agree on everything, but there should be a wide measure of agreement to the principal questions involved. It is quite impossible for the Government of India to impose any such decision against the wishes of any considerable number of people.

3. Swami Sitaram suggests that an impartial tribunal should be constituted to solve controversial issues. No tribunal of this kind can be impartial. As a matter of fact a very impartial committee was appointed by Sardar Patel two or three years ago under, I think, Mr. Pannalal's chairmanship and that committee presented a report. The committee was generally opposed to the formation of linguistic provinces. Nevertheless we expressed our readiness to go ahead more especially with the Andhra Province, provided an agreed scheme was put forward. You will of course appreciate that the separation of a Province is not a matter of simple decree. It involves a large number of complicated questions relating not only to boundaries but also to finances, administrative matters, judiciary, capital, etc. With the best will in the world and with every effort to that end, it is quite impossible to form the Andhra State before the 2nd October 1951, as suggested by the Swami. We are perfectly prepared to go ahead with this matter, even though many of us feel that this critical moment is not the proper time for taking steps to this end. But if the people concerned are willing and desire it, we do not wish to come in their way. It would be very odd indeed if we tried to impose our will or somebody else's will on some or many of the people concerned in such matters at a time when grave danger threatens the country and we are on the eve of a general election.

4. It is quite clear to me that Swami Sitaram's starting a fast for this purpose will not help in that at all, I am sure that if he gives thought to this matter carefully, he will appreciate the position. He wants surely to achieve the creation of the Andhra Province. We have suggested the way to proceed about this business. It is not we who are coming in the way of such a province. Swami Sitaram can proceed on the lines we have suggested and thereby expedite the formation of such a Province. Otherwise his objective will not be reached or will be delayed and needless suffering and illwill will be created at a time, when, as I have said above, grave perils threaten the nation. The Government of India has to keep the entire picture in view and cannot take isolated action, however important it might be, if this has adverse effects on other important matters.

5. I suggest that you might yourself write to Swami Sitaram and convey my message to him on the lines I have given above.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“With regard to the agreement, can there be a greater agreement than the unanimous Resolution of this House, consisting of Andhras, Malayalees and others that Madras should be divided into linguistic States, even during the Sri Rajagopalachari's Premiership? With regard to the objection that some Rayalaseema people are opposing the formation of the State, was it not overlooked and was not a Partition Committee appointed because the opposing section was a small one?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member is making a speech.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Sir, he has asked me for an expression of opinion and has not put a question for eliciting information.”

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—“Arising out of the remark of the gallant Leader of the House that this Government have nothing to hide, may I know whether this Government are prepared to publish the proceedings of the Partition Committee which were forwarded to the Central Government?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I do not think we can publish them, Sir.”

JANAB MOHAMED RAFEEUDDIN AHMAD ANSARI:—“Apart from the Hon. the Chief Minister communicating a

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personal appeal to Swami Sitaram, may I ask whether the Government consider it desirable to convey to the Swamiji the fact that this House, i.e., the Legislature, views this fast with displeasure and appeals to the Swamiji to give up the fast?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Unless there is a definite Resolution of this House, how can I communicate the views of a single individual? Whether it is displeasure or pleasure, I do not know. It won't be nice for me to say that this House desires this and that."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Are the Government aware that a convention of Andhra Leaders is going to be held on the 31st instant under the presidency of Sri T. Prakasam?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am not aware of it."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—"From a casual reading of the letter of the Hon. the Chief Minister of this State, is it not clear to the Leader that the recommendation of the Hon. the Chief Minister is not at all earnest and that this Government have failed to appreciate the consequences that will ensue if, God forbid, Swamiji dies on account of the fast?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I hold an altogether different opinion and I think the Hon. the Chief Minister has done exceedingly well in sending the memorandum to the Prime Minister and also pressing this Government's view on the Government of India."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—"Sir, I want a half-hour debate on this matter. Swamiji is a great son of Andhra. This Government have not appreciated what is going to happen from the fast. So, it is proper that the representatives should get an opportunity . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"For what? This half-hour debate should be asked for in Delhi."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—"I want a half-hour debate to press upon the Central Government as well as the State Government our views. Through this House we have sent representations to the Central Government, we have sent representations to Ceylon and Burma also. So, it is not a new thing. Through this House we impressed foreign countries and so I request you, Sir, to bear with me and kindly allow half-an-hour debate to-day. We would like the public to appreciate our anxiety to impress on the Government our views. When that is the case, I do not think the Government also will refuse a half-hour debate because it is in the interests of the Government and the Leader of the House that the public should know how far the Government are earnest in the matter."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Half-hour debate is allowed not by the Government but by the Chair. Let the hon. Member not appeal to the Government for half-hour debate."

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JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—"Having known you, Sir, for the past four or five years, I am sure that you will allow half-hour debate on such an important matter as this."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"I also want a half-hour debate on this matter." (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have given enough of time for this question and I am not going to allow a half-hour debate in addition."

Extension of electricity scheme to Banganapalle area.

* 40 Q.—SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:—Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the electricity scheme to Banganapalle area from Nandyal thermal station;

(b) whether any representations have been made to the Government regarding this and if so, by whom; and

(c) what the Government propose to do in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Yes. A joint representation by the hon. Member himself and Sri N. Venkatasubbiah M.L.A., and another representation by the citizens of Banganapalle were made to Government.

" (c) The investigation of the proposal for extension of supply of electricity from the Nandyal Diesel station to Banganapalle area is expected to be taken up by the Electricity Department in the third quarter of 1951 according to a planned programme."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:—"Sir, in view of the existence of the fruit industry in Banganapalle area which has acquired All-India reputation, and as there is every possibility of starting a fruit canning industry also if electricity is extended to that area, may I request the Hon. Minister to expedite it and see that electricity is extended to that area as early as possible?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"The construction of the Nandyal thermal station is just now being completed and the investigation for extension to Banganapalle will be taken up presently."

Bus service between Markapur Railway Station and Markapur village.

* 41 Q.—SRI A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any complaints have been made to the Government recently that the bus service between Markapur Railway Station and Markapur village, Kurnool district, has deprived all the families who have been living by driving carts on that road, of their only means of livelihood; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“(a) The answer is in the negative.

“(b) The question does not arise.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“Is it not a fact that the people there interviewed the Hon. Minister when he went to Markapur and represented that several of the families that were living by driving carts on the road had been deprived of their livelihood and that the Hon. Minister promised to consider their representations carefully?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“The question had been received in the office long before I went to Markapur and so the answer was prepared on these lines.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“Why should the people go back to cart traffic when times are improving? When we are giving buses, it is a better means of conveyance for the public.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“It is the opinion of the hon. Member.”

Tungabhadra Hydro-electric Scheme.

* 42. Q.—SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the present stage of the Tungabhadra Hydro-electric Scheme;

(b) the quantity of electricity likely to be produced under this scheme; and

(c) whether, under this scheme, electricity will be supplied to the whole of Rayalaseema including rural areas?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“(a) The scheme provides for two power houses one at the dam site and the other 15 miles away called the Canal Power House. Specifications for the turbines, etc., required for the power houses were finalized and tenders invited in June and July 1951. Specifications for the outdoor and indoor switchgear, etc., required for the various sub-stations were prepared and tenders called for in April 1951. Specifications for the lines to be given over for contract were finalized and tenders called for in June 1951. Orders for the equipment will be placed in due course after an analysis of the tenders. A subdivision has been formed from the 11th July 1951 with headquarters at Hospet for carrying out investigation works.

“(b) The total generating capacity of the two power houses will be 30,000 K.W. initially rising to 60,000 K.W. ultimately. The firm power that can be produced throughout the year will be of the order of 30,000 K.W.

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“(c) The scheme will cover the four districts of Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool and Cuddapah except the southern taluks of Hindupur, Penukonda, Kadiri and Madakasira in Anantapur district. The area of supply at present envisaged covers the belt extending from Tungabhadra Dam to Kodur bounded by Hyderabad State on the north and by the Mysore State and Chittoor district on the south.

Supply will, of course, be made to the rural parts also which are within the reach of the lines put up under the Scheme.”

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH :—“May I know when this scheme will be completed?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“It will certainly take some years but I would like to have notice as to when exactly the scheme will be completed.”

SRI B. ANANTACHAR :—“What is the amount sanctioned for this scheme and what is the length of the power canal and how much of it has already been under construction?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“I would like to have notice.”

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—“May I know if it will be possible to take electricity under this scheme at least to South Kanara if Jog Scheme is not going to fructify?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“These districts do want all the power that would be generated at the Tungabhadra site but I can assure the hon. Member that we are taking steps to get power generated either from Mysore or elsewhere and then supply electricity to the areas in South Kanara.”

SRI B. ANANTACHAR :—“May I know if the differences between the Archaeological Department and that of Power Projects have been resolved and, if so, and with what result?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“I would like to have notice but I could tell the hon. Member that no differences stand in the way of the scheme.”

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—“Will the Government consider the idea of imposing a betterment tax on lands which are going to be benefited by electricity? Now we have brought forward a Bill to levy a tax on lands which are benefited by irrigation schemes. Lands are benefited by electricity also. Will the Government consider the advisability of levying a betterment tax on lands which are benefited by the supply of electricity also?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“I can tell the hon. Gentleman that ryots who have the benefit of power for irrigation purposes willingly pay as much as Rs. 40 per acre by way of cost of the electrical energy that they consume and, therefore, there is no proposal to levy an additional betterment tax.”

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Research in Kaveripattinam sea-port.

* 43 Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the State Government or the Central Government through this Government have recently received any representation from the Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University, to conduct research in Kaveripattinam sea-port, the ancient capital of Chola kings?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“Yes. The representation has been forwarded to the Ministry of Education, Government of India with a request to arrange for an investigation of the region.”

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—“May I know whether the Government have received any reply from the Central Government and if so, what it is?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“The Central Government have informed us that the Indian Navy does not possess the equipment necessary for taking under-water photograph.”

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—“May I know whether the Government have got any proposal to excavate the very ancient historic town of Kaveripattinam so that they can find out its historic importance?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“I think this question pertains to a Department of the Government of India.”

Sales depots opened by spinning mills.

* 44 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether some spinning mills in Madras have been allowed to open their own sales depots;

(b) if so, whether it was allowed on State Government's recommendation; and

(c) the reasons that prompted the Government to make this recommendation?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—“(a) Yes.
“(b) Yes.

“(c) to enable mills (mostly new) which are uneconomic to balance their expenditure and to continue to work in the interests of Yarn Production.”

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—“Are the Government aware of the public opinion prevailing in the State that only because the mills have been allowed to open their own sales depots, black-marketing exists and there is non-availability of cloth for allotment?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—“It is not so, Sir.”

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Digging of a channel at Polampalli, Nandigama taluk.

* 45 Q.—SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government of Hyderabad State have given permission to this Government to dig the channel on the right side of the anicut on the Muniyeru at Polampalli, Nandigama taluk, through the Hyderabad State area; and

(b) whether the digging of the channel will be begun by this Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“(a) & (b) The Government of Hyderabad have not yet been addressed in the matter as the proposals are still under examination by the Board of Revenue.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“May I know at what stage the correspondence is?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“We are awaiting the report from the Board of Revenue and as soon as we receive the report, we will address the Government of Hyderabad.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“Does it mean that the Government have not yet addressed the Government of Hyderabad?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“I have said so even in the original answer.”

Lime-bearing areas in Tadpatri taluk.

* 46 Q.—SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Anantapur has declared some areas in Tadpatri taluk as lime-bearing areas and if so, what the areas are;

(b) whether it is a fact that he has prohibited other mining works being carried on in these areas and if so, why?

(c) whether any representations have been made by the mine owners protesting against such orders and if so, what action the Government propose to take; and

(d) whether any geological survey has been made in this area?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—“(a) & (b) The Government have imposed a ban on the grant of mining concessions in the limestone bearing areas under reference with a view to utilizing the deposits for State purposes;

“(c) No representation protesting against the orders has been received by the Government;

“(d) A Geological Survey of the area was made in 1948.”

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:—“May I know from the Government whether there is any proposal to start a cement factory in that area.”

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THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ There is no proposal to start a cement factory in Tadpatri but there is a proposal to start one in Kurnool district.”

Employment of diploma-holders of Annamalai University.

* 47 Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether any of the diploma-holders in Minor Irrigation and Road Construction of the Annamalai University were taken into Government service; and

(b) if so, whether all of them are still continuing in their services; and if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ (a) Yes. Several candidates holding the Minor Irrigation and Road Construction Diploma of the Annamalai University have been employed as Overseers and Draftsmen under the emergency provisions in Public Works and the Highways Departments. Some of them have been regularly appointed either as Overseers or Draftsmen by relaxing the relevant rules in their favour.

“ (b) Some of the candidates appointed under the emergency provisions have been ousted from service to make room for candidates possessing the prescribed qualifications. Instructions have, however, been issued to the Chief Engineers to continue the candidates in service as far as vacancies are available, pending a decision on their regular absorption in the Public Works and the Highways Departments which is under the active consideration of the Government.”

11-30 a.m. SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—“ May I know whether there were any restrictions on the diploma-holders of this University and if so, the reason for the same? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ Yes, there was restriction, because it was considered by experts that the examination passed by them was not equivalent to the Lower Subordinate Diploma examination.”

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—“ May I know how they are accepted now? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ The Hon. Minister has already answered that they were appointed by relaxing the relevant rules in their favour.”

SRI G. RAJAMANNAR CHETTI :—“ May I know whether the practical experience gained by these men all these years will be considered to be equivalent to other prescribed qualifications? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ That is why, while relaxing the rules, we have retained several of these people.”

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SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—“ Will the Government consider the advisability of employing these people on a permanent basis instead of their being ousted at a later stage? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ I have already answered that the matter is under consideration of the Government.”

Well subsidy for “ punjai ” lands.

* 48 Q.—SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI NAYUDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that well subsidies are given only in respect of “ nanjai ” lands;

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving any subsidy for “ punjai ” lands; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to give subsidy for punjai lands and if so, when?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ (a) No. The well subsidies are given for ‘ Punjai ’ lands also, but preference was and is being given for grant of subsidies in ‘ Nanjai ’ lands with a view to achieve good results quickly.

“ (b) & (c) Covered by the answer to (a).”

SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI NAYUDU :—“ தயவு செய்து கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களை தமிழில் சொல்லும்படி நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ (a) இல்லை. Well subsidies புஞ்சை நிலங்களுக்குக் கூட கொடுக்கிறோம்! ”

Factory at Kulasekarapatnam for extracting sugar from palmyra juice.

* 49 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a factory at Kulasekarapatnam was extracting sugar from palmyra juice;

(b) whether the Government are aware of any such factory working now; and

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to lay out such plants for extracting sugar directly from palmyra juice; and if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ (a) Yes. A factory was set up in Kulasekharapatnam by Messrs. Parry & Co. in 1916 for extracting white sugar direct from palmyra juice. The factory was closed down in 1923 as the cost of production proved prohibitive.

“ (b) No.

“ (c) The manufacture of sugar from palmyra juice is considered to be uneconomical and it is therefore not proposed to set up any factory for this purpose.”

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SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—“ In view of the sugar scarcity in the country and in view of the need for providing work for the ex-tappers, will the Government consider the desirability of importing necessary machinery from America, which is considered to be very economical for extracting sugar from palmyra juice? ”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ If the hon. Member has got any proposal, he can put it before the Government and it will be considered.”

SRI G. RAJAMANNAR CHETTY :—“ May I know whether the Government will permit such of those, who claim or prove that manufacture of sugar from palmyra juice will be economical, to manufacture the same on a small scale and will the Government encourage the cottage industry as such? ”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ The Government will have no objection to encourage cottage industries.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—“ Will the Government investigate into the matter and find out whether a workable factory could be started on the basis that sugar will be offered for free sale and will not be controlled? ”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ The proposal will be considered if put forward.”

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR :—“ Is it not a fact that a large number of ex-tappers are still unemployed and if so, may I know what steps this Government propose to take to provide work for them? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ What has that to do with the main question which relates to the extraction of sugar from palmyra juice? ”

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—“ Have the Government received any representation from the public to import such machinery? ”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“ I have no information.”

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

II.—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—“ Sir, I want to know the programme of the House.”

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD :—“ Sir, we were hoping that the Hon. Leader of the House or the Hon. Food Minister will announce the date for the food debate. From what has appeared in the Press, we are led to infer that there would not be a day allotted in this sitting of the House to discuss the food situation in the State, and that such a discussion is likely to be postponed to the September sitting. I would like to make a representation to the Government through you, Sir, that that will be

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very unfair to this House and to the country, particularly so, after the announcement that the Government of India are not going to give 30,000 tons, but only 20,000 tons. In such a case, the Hon. Food Minister of the Madras State thinks that he has to review the position, which means that the present reduced ration of 6 ounces will be further reduced to 5 or 4 ounces. Under these circumstances I demand most emphatically that the Government must find time even in this sitting of the House to discuss the grave food situation. If they think that a day cannot be allotted, then I feel that they have no real excuse to offer.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Regarding the programme of the House, all the Bills that we want to move in the present sitting of the House are given to the Members and are placed on the agenda. We want to go through that programme. I think it may perhaps be necessary to sit till the 3rd or 4th September. After these Bills are over, we have no objection to allot a day for food debate. Sir, in this connection I wish to state that our previous experience is that whenever we allotted a day for a debate on any particular matter, two days were found to be necessary as a large numbers of hon. Members wished to take part in the discussion. Some of the Bills are to be referred to Select Committees. So, I am unable to give any definite assurances as to the allotment of a day for the food debate. Tomorrow is a non-official day, and we have no objection to that day being utilized for the discussion of the food situation.”

SOME HON. MEMBERS :—“ We agree to it.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ The Food Minister is expected to give a statement on the food situation in the State before discussion in the House. Can we have it by tomorrow morning? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ We shall try to supply the Members with that statement as early as possible. If it is not possible to supply it to-morrow, we will try to supply it day after to-morrow.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ If there is no other non-official work for to-morrow, we have no objection to the non-official day being utilized for the food debate. If, however, there is non-official work, I think it must have preference.”

SRI K. R. KARANTH :—“ Sir, I have given notice of a Bill called the Cultivating Tenants Protection Bill, the object of which is to stay the evictions that are taking place all over the State. That is as important as food debate. All the same, I do not want to come in the way of by hon. Friend. What I say is this. Let us take up that Bill first. We will try to take as short a time as possible in the discussion of the Bill. After that Bill is over, the House may take up the food debate, if there is time and if it is possible. That is what we can do. It would be most unfair if on a non-official day, non-official business is not to be given preference.”

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MR. SPEAKER :—" I think the Hon. Leader of the House and the Leaders of other Parties may discuss this question among themselves and come to a conclusion."

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We do not want to take away the non-official day. If the hon. Members agree to have the food debate tomorrow which is a non-official day, I have no objection. That is what I have said even in the beginning."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Instead of discussing this question in the House, I think it is better if the Hon. Leader of the House and other Party Leaders discuss it outside and arrive at a decision

" Let us now take up the Bills."

III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS IRRIGATION (BETTERMENT CONTRIBUTION AND INCLUSION FEES) BILL, 1951—*cont.*

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Sir, while I am prepared to concede that this House should appreciate the enthusiasm of the Government and particularly the Hon. Public Works Minister for pushing through many schemes of irrigation—major and minor irrigation work, tank improvement scheme, etc.,—I only like to impress upon this House the necessity for recognising the conditions of those connected with land. We have been put to the necessity of taking up several irrigation projects not out of any special love for the agriculturists, but out of sheer necessity. The agriculturist is not able to find water to carry on cultivation. For this main reason only, the Government are coming to the aid of the agriculturists.

" This question of betterment levy and inclusion fee, has a history behind it. It has had a chequered course. If this inclusion fee is allowed to be collected, my friends from some of the Telugu districts, viz., East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna will realize that their heads will be broken. If a person goes and tells the people of those parts that the inclusion fee is to be collected from them, I will not be surprised if personal injury is caused to him and he is taken to the hospital the next moment. That will be the situation. It is a notorious fact that, in the early days of representative Government in this part of the country, those civil servants who were nominated to the Board of Revenue annually sent up proposals for the levy of inclusion fee and thus embarrassed the Ministry. In those days we had diarchy; Ministers were functioning and there were also Executive Councillors giving instructions to the Ministry also in this matter. I know of a number of occasions when the Justice Party, headed by that distinguished politician the Raja of Panagal, was at its wit's end to find ways and means to reject the proposal sponsored by the Revenue Board and the Executive Council. It was a question of consenting to the proposal of the Revenue Board or giving up the Ministry. That was the only choice before them. I know how many anxious moments, difficult days and weeks were passed.

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Ultimately, it was given to that man of great wisdom to find a way out and avoid the levy of the inclusion fee in this part of the country. Even at a later stage when the Raja of Panagal had passed away, several attempts were made to levy this fee. In the interim Ministry which was in office for some time, Sir K. V. Reddi was the Chief Minister and I was also in the Cabinet. Even at that time, there was a proposal for the levy of the inclusion fee. We got over that by the appointment of a Committee consisting of that distinguished civilian, Sir Norman Marjoribanks, who cared for the Indian aspirations more than any other civilian in those days, and Sri B. Ramachandra Reddi, a former President of the Madras Legislative Council and Diwan Bahadur Mahabala Hegde, a distinguished gentleman from South Kanara. The report of that Committee was to the effect that the inclusion fee need not be levied. On the strength of that report, as early as 1937, the interim Ministry dropped the idea of levying the inclusion fee.

" The Government intend to levy this fee with retrospective effect, from 1943. Probably, in the Telugu districts, which are otherwise likely to be affected, the various schemes might have preceded 1943 and they will not be affected at present. But still, I submit that there are many areas in this State in the Tamil and Telugu districts which will be affected by this provision. I concede that income from land has been augmented and has now increased but the Government must concede that the cost of living and the cost of agricultural implements and other things have also increased. The cultivation cost has increased greatly. If we take an analysis and draw up a balance sheet of the whole position, I do not know if we will be justified in levying this fee. Therefore I would entreat the Government not to proceed with this legislation for the levy of the betterment and inclusion fees.

" There is another matter to which I would very much like to refer. It is mentioned in the Bill that the contribution will not exceed 50 per cent of the increase. They can even go up to 40 per cent as the maximum has been fixed at 50 per cent. In that case, it is not a fee at all and is practically a capital levy on land. How far this House is entitled to agree to the imposition of a capital levy on land is a matter of great doubt. Simply because the Government of India want to levy an estate duty in respect of 'agricultural lands', you are proceeding a step further. Are you seriously thinking of levying an estate duty on land claiming a betterment contribution of as much as fifty per cent of the rise in capital value? I say, Sir, that this is a levy on one's estate even when he is living."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It is not a levy but a fee."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister has made a distinction. He says that it is not a levy but a fee. I am sorry to say that I cannot accept his distinction

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between levy and fee. I repeat, Sir, that this is not merely a levy, a tax but levying estate duty, not after a man's death but while the man is living in full flesh and blood?

"I read that the Upper House had a discussion recently on the levy of estate duty on agricultural land and that they have postponed discussion. I still hope, Sir, and I am living in that hope that the Government will announce soon that they are not going to proceed with that measure.

"On this occasion, I wish to remind the House that I am not satisfied with the Government proceeding with these taxation proposals in respect of land, in this piecemeal manner. This House has not had the opportunity of discussing the report of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee. Representations, in the shape of resolutions, have been pouring in from landlords and their Associations, requesting the Government not to proceed with this measure. I am not an expert on agricultural matters. Many leading associations have voiced their protest against this betterment levy. But the Government insist on proceeding with this legislation and refer the Bill to a Select Committee which, we are told, would consider the suggestions made and make necessary amendments. I do not see any reason for this Bill to be referred to a Select Committee. I do not see any reason for the Bill to be introduced at all when the betterment levy is fixed as high as fifty per cent.

"The Government of India are going to levy an estate duty in respect of 'agricultural land' and they are shortly going to bring in legislation to that effect.

"I wish, in all seriousness, that the Government drop this Bill."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, the object of the Bill is quite plain. The Government are in need of more finances. They have incurred enormous expenditure on public works by way of irrigation projects, both minor and major, by way of supply of power, and finally extension of irrigation facilities to every village so that our State becomes self-sufficient in the matter of both water and power supply. They want to get sufficient revenue by way of return. Taxation is only one of the many minor ways in which this Government is attempting to raise the necessary funds for making good the expenditure they have incurred. A plan, a five-year plan, called the National Plan has been prepared by the Planning Commission. Any Government whether it is the Congress Government or any other Government that is going to come, should seriously consider the suggestions made in the report of the Planning Commission.

"Many members have denounced the measure as one that is not suited to the prevailing conditions. They have not placed before the House any concrete suggestion for raising larger revenues to meet the increased expenditure on public works especially in the matter of irrigation.

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"As I see the provisions of the Bill, Sir, I wish to make some observations about the method by which the Government propose to raise the additional revenues. In clause 3 we find the word 'contribution', being used. Sir, the word 'contribution' in respect of betterment schemes like projects, irrigation or power supply ordinarily means that work is undertaken when a contribution from the public in some proportion is offered and the Government also offer their help for the success of the scheme by making sufficient advances. But, Sir, when we look into the method by which this contribution is sought to be raised, we find all works hitherto completed should be taken into account, for the purpose of this levy. In fact, it has been laid down that the levy is to be made on any irrigation or drainage work that has been since completed or on the completion of the improvement or extension of any such work, whether after the commencement of this Bill or at any time before such commencement but *not earlier* than the 1st January 1943.

"Clause 4 says that the Collector will take into account the enhancement in the capital value of the land due to the project or irrigation facilities offered. This is a very loose provision. It may be amended during the Select Committee stage. But here I want to point out, Sir, that this throws upon the Collector a very onerous responsibility. The Collector has to make careful calculations to arrive at a correct assessment of the increase in the capital value of the land. The Collector is required to be a great 'Economist' himself to work out all these details in the correct manner. You know, Sir, that the value of land has increased several times even though no works have been carried out for its betterment. Nobody has any idea as to how much of this increase in its value will be taken into account while fixing the betterment contribution?

"The work would involve very detailed enquiry. I say, Sir, that one Collector will not be enough. You may require as many as twenty Collectors for each district. Every district may require a Special Economic Adviser who will help in assessing the increase in the capital value of the land.

"In most cases, the decision of the Collector fixing the increase in the capital value would be questioned. Appeals would be pouring in continuously. The work of the Collector would increase beyond limits. You will be requiring not a limited number of officers but a host of them to carry on the work that is contemplated by this Act, under clause 4.

"The value of lands has increased even in cases where no irrigation projects have been undertaken by the Government or are going to be undertaken by them. The value of lands varies from village to village according to the special circumstances obtaining in each place. The value needs to be assessed properly as otherwise there will be lot of discontent among the people. I would ask the Government why they should not choose some other way of raising funds for financing the irrigation projects. For instance,

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if entire ayacuts have been benefited or will be benefited by any irrigation or power supply scheme undertaken by the Government, they can ask the whole village which the ayacuts comprise to bear a portion, a percentage, of the cost of the entire scheme. This percentage can be recovered from the ryots. This will facilitate matters. This will enable the Government to raise more revenue. This will not involve any hard work for the Collectors. This measure will be easier of execution and will prove popular also. At any rate, so far as the works to be undertaken by the Government are concerned, there will be absolutely no difficulty in following this method. To call it a betterment levy and collect it on the basis of assessment of the capital value of the land will be rather inconsistent. I hope that the Select Committee will give its full thought to this question and make the work of raising money easy and plausible in the eyes of the ryots.

"Finally, Sir, there is one point to which I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members. A mistake is being made that clause 3 of the Bill seeks to give retrospective effect to the provisions of the Bill. This is not correct. It only deals with the period when irrigation works might have come into existence and from which the owners of lands might have benefited for purposes of determining the increase in the value of lands. Sir, also in this measure, a difference has to be made between estate lands and ryotwari lands. Estate lands have begun to be served only recently and the assessment of the capital value of such lands should be on a different basis from the one applicable to ryotwari tracts."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am of the opinion that this Bill is premature and inopportune; hence it should not be proceeded with in this House. It is premature because we learn that the Government intend to bring forward a comprehensive measure in the form of an Irrigation Bill. I do not know why the Government are in such inordinate haste to push through this piece of legislation just on the eve of the elections. Questions such as this involving further encroachment into the tax-payers' pocket should be left to the future legislature to decide and it is not wise on the part of the Government to proceed with such legislation at the present time. It is urged that the Government are in need of funds. Though by measures of this kind they can succeed in raising some money for the time being, in the long run such legislation will have an adverse effect on the economy of the country and will reduce public confidence in the Government still further. When the Government go to the open market to float loans, unless public confidence is there, people will not come forward to invest their money in such loans. It is only when public confidence is restored in the economy of the land that the Government will be able to raise the necessary funds to push through their various projects. Apart from other considerations, I wish to emphasise that the measure is inopportune and it is inadvisable to launch upon fresh taxation proposals now. Such proposals may well be left to the future Legislature to decide upon

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"There is no gainsaying the fact that betterment levies are found to be in existence in many countries and that the reasons set out in the Bill for the present levies are plausible enough. But the measure as it stands at present is one that cannot be supported and should not be supported in this House, for it contains far-reaching provisions.

(At this stage the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

"It must be remembered that there are various factors that contribute to the increase in the value of land and not merely the improvements effected by the Government. Among such contributory factors one is also the outlay of capital by the owners of land and the other is the present-day inflation. How are the Government going to determine as to what portion of the betterment has been the result of the irrigation works and other improvements carried out in a particular area. The task is most difficult. Therefore, if the Government wish to have a betterment levy, it would be much better to fix the rates in the Bill itself.

"In the Bill before us I find that the revenue authorities are to be invested with vast powers in regard to this matter. I understand that the idea of a betterment levy has been imported from the West. But it must be realized that conditions in the West are not the same as those obtaining here. Besides, the methods pursued by western countries in regard to such levies are entirely different from those that are intended to be pursued under the present Bill. For instance, in the United States of America betterment levies are subject to judicial review. But under the Bill before the House, judicial process is unfortunately barred. Despite the fact that the Government themselves would be a party to the issue, they propose to function as the judge and the final judge of the whole matter and wish to debar the Courts of Law altogether from dealing with the question. You will find, in clause 8 of the Bill that the Collector is the person who is to assess the levy after considering the objections of those affected. Against the order of the Collector an appeal would lie to the Board of Revenue and thereafter, instead of such matters being allowed to be taken to Courts of Law, the Government have invested themselves with powers of revision. In spite of the fact that the Government themselves would be a party in the case, clause 9 provides that the decision of the Government shall be final and it shall not be liable to be questioned in any Court of Law. Such legislation is unheard of in any civilized country. The whole of clause 9 should be deleted. If the Government wish to proceed with the measure, they should, as in America, appoint an independent tribunal to assess the contribution that should be made. Fixation of the contribution should be left to an independent authority even as in the Town-Planning Act here. That will save the Government from much worry and the revenue authorities additional work.

"In the United States of America, betterment levies are not regarded as a revenue source but as payment for a specific purpose. And the work of assessing the special benefit is not entrusted to

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the Revenue Department, but to a specialised service of qualified assessors who are trained for such work. It would be advisable to act in a like manner in this State. As regards the final decision, it is imperative that the matter should be left to the Courts of Law as is done in the case of land acquisition proceedings. It is amazing that the Government propose to oust the jurisdiction of the law courts altogether in regard to this measure also, as they have done in almost every Bill that they have brought forward before this House. Provisions such as those contained in clause 9 are not at all in consonance with the spirit of democracy. It is most arbitrary and high-handed to deal with the rights of the citizens in the manner contemplated under this clause. The powers of revision with which the Government wish to be invested under this Bill are even more undesirable than the provisions of Section 64-A of the Motor Vehicles Act. For in regard to the Motor Vehicles Act the Government have the final say in a dispute arising between two bus operators. But here, the Government will be deciding a case in which they are themselves a party. Such a thing is quite unheard of. If this Bill as it stands now is placed on the Statute Book, it will be a blot on the fair name of this country. Therefore, in the interests of the good name of this Government, I would earnestly request the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue, who is himself a lawyer and who is well aware of the implications of this measure, to delete, clause 9 if he cannot altogether drop the Bill, so that the jurisdiction of law courts may not be ousted with regard to this matter."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Madam, Deputy Speaker, while introducing the Bill, the Hon. the Minister said that the Government were asking for a portion of the benefits which the agriculturists have received or is going to receive by reason of any project undertaken by the Government. He contended that because of the properties, the agriculturist will get double, treble or four times the yield he was previously getting. I feel, Madam, that the betterment fee is based on certain wrong assumptions. If we study the various irrigation schemes undertaken by the Government, we will see that they are classified under two heads, 'protective' and 'productive'. Protective schemes are those which are undertaken by the Government in times of drought and famine so that people may be protected from starvation and unemployment.

12-15 p.m. "The other schemes are the productive schemes such as big irrigation schemes of the Cauvery, the Krishna, the Godavari, etc. According to the administration report of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation—I had an opportunity of going through that report—up to the year 1944 Government have spent about 15 crores on 24 major irrigation schemes, or what I referred to as productive schemes. Out of this they have got an income of about 2.5 crores. This income comes from water-tax. They are spending 58 lakhs or so on establishment and other things. Even then these schemes are paying the Government amply. Even during the British regime the return expected was only 3 per cent on the capital outlay. On

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these major schemes the Government have got a net profit of 74 lakhs which means a return of 4 per cent. This is more than what the Government expected. In respect of the protective schemes from which the Government ought not ordinarily to expect any return, they spent up to the year 1944 about 4 crores and got an income of 16 lakhs. This works out to a return of 1.3 per cent. When we consider these things, I am not able to understand why Government should now think of getting something more from the people by way of levy of a betterment tax.

"Sir, after the advent of Swaraj, our Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru made a speech over the radio on the 15th August 1947. In that speech he was referring to the dreams that he was dreaming, to what he wanted to do for this country. He said that the waters of the perennial rivers like the Ganges and others, instead of being allowed to run waste into the sea, must be diverted and made to flow over the lands that are lying waste and thus produce more. He wanted that such schemes should be constructed. It is the duty of the Government to construct such schemes. Government cannot rest content by merely saying that they are doing service to the nation. It is wrong notion altogether. When the Government say that they are spending money on these schemes and all that and want a return, it appears to me that they are taking a narrow-minded view of things and if I may say so, holding fast to the ideas the East India Company had. The East India Company spent money on such schemes but they wanted that they should get an income equivalent to the amount spent by them. This was the idea of the East India Company. But now, Madam, we are having our own Government. That being so, I cannot understand why we should insist on getting some return on the amount spent on these schemes.

"Madam, Government say they have spent money on these schemes and therefore they want to levy a betterment tax on the people who are benefited by these schemes. From this it would appear that a particular set of people living in a particular area, that is, a particular community of agriculturists are to be benefited by these schemes. It may be so but I want to point out that there are two kinds of benefits derived from these schemes, the direct and the indirect. The direct benefit or income is that which is got by the agriculturists by way of increased return from the land by using the irrigational facilities. But there is the other benefit, the other income, namely, the indirect income which the Government have forgotten to take account of in their anxiety to introduce this measure and get something from the people. There is the indirect income derived by the people in the area, people in our State and the people in our country as a result of these schemes. What I mean is, if a big scheme is constructed and irrigational facilities are increased, production will increase and, on account of increased production, new industries will be started and this in its turn will enable people in the area to get employment. Not only that people

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from other areas will go there for employment. New industries, new electricity schemes will grow and more and more people will get employment. With the increase in industry and commerce there will also be an increase in the income from sales-tax. The purchasing power of the people will increase. All these are indirect incomes to the Government which they have not taken into account.

"Madam, my hon. Friend the Rajah of Chettinad wants a food debate in the House now and then. Why? Because we are deficit in the matter of our food. Our shortage is estimated at about 10 lakhs of tons. If we have these schemes our production will increase and the gap in our food deficit will be closed. Now we are importing foodgrains from foreign countries. If we increase our production with these major schemes, Government can save the money that they are now wasting in foreign countries. How long can we expect this Union Government to supply our food requirements, to meet our deficit and how long can we expect to get foreign imports? And we know, Madam, what sort of help we are getting from the Central Government or the foreign countries to meet our food deficit. I say, Madam, we must help ourselves. Self-help is the best help. If we are interested, if we are earnest in meeting our food deficit we must come forward with more schemes, bigger irrigation schemes, whether there is return or no return. We cannot go on thinking in terms of spending money with a view to get a return, how much return we should get, what kind of return we should get and so on. We must produce food for the people. That is our duty. That is the duty of every Government and that is the duty of every one who wants a Welfare State. No Welfare State could afford to grudge spending money on these schemes.

"Madam, I hear the Hon. Revenue Minister saying: 'Welfare State does not mean there will be no taxes.' Madam, the Hon. Minister has himself seen some of the European countries. I have seen some. There they don't have this land-tax, betterment tax, etc. Suppose a ryot in Ramanathapuram district pays a land tax of about Rs. 5 per acre to the Government. If Government construct a major irrigation scheme, the income from the land would increase. On that increased income, if the Government were wise, they could impose an agricultural income-tax instead of this betterment levy. In Western countries, people are asked to pay tax on the income derived by them, not on the basis of land owned by them. In those Welfare States, people are asked to pay according to their capacity, according to the income derived by them and the people are prepared to pay the Government. Likewise our Government can impose an agricultural income-tax. Supposing the income from an acre was 100 rupees and if it had increased to four or five hundred rupees as a result of the construction of these bigger irrigation schemes, let the Government ask the ryot to pay income-tax on the increased income. At whatever rate the Government may fix the tax, they can recover it from the people. That would be a justifiable thing

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to do and the Government could have themselves and also satisfy all sections of the people. But here the Government are asking for something else, a betterment levy. Government can ask a person to pay a tax or something else on accrued income or earned income. They have a right to ask him to pay that. But I do not think there is any logic in the Government asking a person to pay a tax in the expectation that he will get some benefit in the future. Government want a tax to be paid now on the future income.

"Madam, my hon. Friend, Sri Varadachari, is laughing at me. I do not know whether he appreciates my points or whether he could not."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I am appreciating all the points that are being put forward by the hon. Member who has experience not only of this country but of all western countries." (Laughter.)

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"I am thankful to him, Madam. He is appreciating my speech.

"Madam, the Government want to impose this levy not only in respect of major schemes, but also in the case of extensions, and minor improvements on existing schemes on which they might have spent a few chips. My humble view is that it is totally wrong on the part of the Government to come forward with such a measure. I am sure in no way the Government are justified in imposing this levy.

"Then, Madam, this is the last point on which I want to say a few words. If this levy is not paid in cash, by this legislation the Government ask people to surrender a portion of their land. Is it fair on the part of the Government to ask the peasants, the poor people, the agriculturists, to surrender their land? An agriculturist may have one or two acres. He may be a poor agriculturist. Of course, he might have got some return from the land for which irrigation facilities were provided by Government. But I cannot understand Government asking him to surrender a portion of his little bit of land—one acre out of the two acres that he perhaps possesses—in lieu of the facilities provided by them. This is something horrible."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member said he was on his last point, but goes on speaking. I have no objection to give him more time. But he said he was on his last point."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"I am only explaining my last point, Madam. (Laughter.) Government could show some concession instead of asking them to pay in a lump sum. People who cannot pay in a lump sum, may be allowed to pay in instalments say within a period of five or ten years. They ask the people to pay interest even though there is no justification to demand the payment of interest. Government grant loans to agriculturists and ask them to return the money in instalments with some interest. There is some justification in demanding interest for the

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loan. But here they want the levy to be paid immediately or pay interest. Is it fair to demand interest? Do the Government think that the poor agriculturist can pay the levy in a lump sum? When they think of agriculturists, unfortunately the Government think of big people who own hundreds of acres; they think of Rajahs and mirasdars who have hundreds of acres. But Madam, it has been admitted that land in our country is widely divided and distributed among many. Fragmentation of land is so great that many own only one or two acres of land. That being the case, how can they pay the levy in a lump sum. Only very few own lands in hundreds of acres. The majority of people own only a few acres and they are already burdened with heavy debts. Several committees were appointed by the Government to investigate the condition of our agriculturists. The Committees have held that the position of the agriculturists generally, and particularly that of the small landowners, is bad and that they are not able to pay even the interest on the loans they have taken because every year the burden of loans on the land increases. How can the Government expect them now to pay a betterment fee and that too in one instalment. They cannot pay this levy. I do not know whether the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue has appreciated my point or not. If he has really appreciated it, he must come forward immediately with his reply saying that he is withdrawing the legislation." (Laughter.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"Not immediately, but after the whole discussion is over." (Laughter.)

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Madam, I hope the Hon. Minister will come forward with not only a surprising, but sporting offer to withdraw this legislation. With these few words, I vehemently oppose the legislation moved by the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue." (Laughter.)

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, even though it fell to the unfortunate lot of the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue to come forward with this taxation Bill just before elections, I crave the indulgence of both the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue and the Hon. the Minister for Public Works and of this House for a few minutes.

"Madam, I would like to remind this House of the very important observations made by the hon. Member, Mr. Tenneti Viswanatham, yesterday in regard to this Bill. Even though technically he has not proved that this House has no right to proceed with the Bill, he made out a very good case and argued very elegantly that it is the duty of the Government to bring forward a comprehensive Bill."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I would like to know just for information what the ruling of the Chair was on the point of order raised by the hon. Member, Mr. Viswanatham, yesterday that this House is not competent to consider this Bill."

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AN HON. MEMBER:—"He moved an adjournment motion."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"He might have moved an adjournment motion and the Government might have refused it. But the question is whether the constitutional objection has been considered and whether the Chair gave any ruling yesterday. I am requesting you, Madam, Deputy Speaker, to enlighten us."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"Yesterday I was not myself present in the House when the point of order was raised. I would like to know from the hon. Member, Mr. T. Viswanatham, whether it was a point of order or an adjournment motion that he moved."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I inform the Chair that I did not raise it as a point of order, for I knew the previous rulings of the Hon. Speaker that he would not like to discuss the constitutional points of order here. So, I did not raise any point of order and there was no question of the Hon. Speaker ruling it out. It is open to any hon. Member to raise a point of order now."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I would like to formally raise a point of order and leave it to the Deputy Speaker to give a ruling when it is convenient to her. My point of order is that this House is not competent to pass or discuss this legislation and that the proper authority for it is the Central Government. I submit that the ruling may be given by the Chair as soon as possible.

"But, subject to your ruling, Madam, I will proceed with whatever I have to say on this matter. Apart from a decision whether this House is competent or not competent to pass this legislation, I ask the Government whether it is not imperative and necessary to bring forward a comprehensive Bill in respect of land taxation. Yesterday the hon. Gentleman, Mr. T. Viswanatham, was telling us that there are five kinds of taxation on one piece of land. Let the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue say 'no' if he is aware of the way in which taxation is levied in Circars—I do not know what it is in Ceded districts. If the Hon. Minister is sure that this is not the case, let him contradict me at once. Therefore, Madam, it is not proper for the Government to come forward with an ill-conceived, ill-timed and ill-drafted Bill before this House without vision, without understanding and without having a comprehensive view of the future, just because the Central Government wanted it or the departmental Secretary prepared it. Even to prepare a comprehensive Bill, they take two or three years as in the case of Land Revenue Reforms Committee's report. That report has been published, but it has not been placed before this House. I have seen in the newspapers that the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue has said that it is not possible for this House to discuss the report of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee and that it is going to be left to the future Legislature. Madam, Deputy Speaker, I take strong objection to the way in which this Government have been dealing with important matters. I am sure, in

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spite of the assurances of the Leader of the House and the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue to the contrary, the public in this State are not informed of this measure fully. It is not right for this Government to consider this measure, simply because they have a packed House. Let them go to the public and tell them the details. I ask all the Hon. Ministers put together, how many public meetings during the last two or three months they have addressed on the matter of taxation. They may say that this levy is intended to benefit the people. I again ask, in how many public meetings they have dared to speak on *taxation*. They might have talked on so many other points, asking the people to vote for the Congress party or for this group or that group. May I ask every individual Minister how many public meetings he has addressed in this State during the last two or three months, specially on this taxation measure?

"Madam, they have said, as is usual with them, that this Bill will have retrospective effect. They have created confusion by their past legislations. I ask the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue to tell me whether it is not a fact that in the matter of abolition of zamindaris they had the legislation with retrospective effect and that there was enough headache for the Government. They had the same headache in the case of Forest Act and some other Acts also. Again, I say, this Bill also is going to create confusion."

AN HON. MEMBER :—"Is this the point of order?"

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"I would like first of all to refer to yesterday's proceedings whether any point of order was raised and then I will give my ruling."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—"Then, Madam, what is the sanctity about 1st of January 1943, the wonderful date they have fixed in the Bill? I ask, did the Government dream or did they start any scheme on that day? Nobody knows the significance of that date. I ask a simple question and I leave it to be answered either by the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue or the Hon. the Minister for Public Works. It is true that some people are benefited by these schemes. Suppose a person who was the owner in 1943 sold away his land to 'A' afterwards, and 'A' to 'B' and I bought it last year at a very high price. Have I to pay the entire tax when the benefit has been enjoyed by many people previously? It is true that the land was benefited, but it changed many hands and I bought it at Rs. 4,000 per acre. Now the Hon. Sri Sitarama Reddi comes and says that I should pay the betterment tax because the Government have started a scheme. After the schemes on the Tungabhadra, the Godavari and the Krishna were completed, several people died and in most cases lands changed hands. It is impossible for the Government to find out how many times the land has changed hands. Then, what is the significance of this date? It is mere madness; it is fool's paradise. Let the Government say that the owner of a paddy land who has bought it at a very high price in 1950 or 1949 will not be taxed."

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"Then, Madam, anything that has to be done in a district has to be done only by the Collector. They never think of any other agency, whether it be the case of well subsidies, or grain purchases or buying asses. (Laughter.) For every thing a report should come from the District Collector. Even for buying pins, a report should come from the District Collector. The Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue knows how busy the Collectors are. There is no more important matter which is highly judicial than this Bill. Madam, suppose some body bought some lands in 1908 even before some of the Hon. Ministers were born and some schemes were taken up afterwards. Between now and 1908 the lands changed hands several times, and in the end, when I bought them, I am going to be taxed. I am not benefitted as much as Mr. 'A' or Mr. 'B', the previous owners. When the amount is to be fixed, the Collector refers the matter to his P.A. and the P.A. to the Deputy Collector or the Tahsildar, all of whom have no judicial mind. They are all quill-drivers. But the very same people are now asked to apply their judicial mind and decide the fate of the people. I am sorry the Hon. the Minister for Public Works is not an Engineer. Yet, in view of the fact that he has been handling this portfolio for the last five years, he must be knowing the technical aspect also. It requires a technical man to say how far a certain land is benefited by a scheme. It is not proper for the Government to say that the District Collector will look into such matters. Therefore, Madam, a judicial body must be entrusted with the task of fixing the contributions."

"Then, Madam, the Government do not seem to have devoted any attention to the Bill. It is drafted by the departmental Secretary, discussed by the Congress party and is introduced here. As everybody knows, there is a packed House and the Bill will be passed. Then it will go to the President for his assent. If, for any reason, the President does not give his assent, then telegrams will be sent and his assent will be received. But, I ask, what is the rationale behind this Bill. Suppose the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue owns about 400 acres and I own 4 acres. I have to be taxed and he too has to be taxed. What is the rationale behind the fixing of the contribution? There must be some method even in madness. I submit, Madam, there is no method in this. I suggest, therefore, that at least now the Government should say, as a vote-catching device, that people owning 4 or 5 acres will be exempted from paying this contribution. My submission is that a man owning 400 acres has got enough money to pay the contribution, but a man who owns 4 or 5 acres will not be able to pay unless he parts with half his land."

"Madam, I hope at least now the Government will see reason. 12-45
will see the point I have made and come forward and fix a minimum P.m
number of acres which are not likely to be taxed under this
measures. As is usual with this Government, if you go through this
Bill though it may look very innocent, you will find that
they have kept vast powers for themselves. The Collector is not
a judicial officer. A party is not entitled to appear before him

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through a vakil or a lawyer unless permitted. This matter should therefore be taken up by a judicial officer. The District Collector is only the agent of the Hon. Minister, Sri H. Sitarama Reddi, and it is within the experience of everybody during the last four or five years that the Collector is not allowed to use his judicial mind. We know over what Committees the Collector is presiding and what functions he is discharging and if there is anybody in this House who says that the Collector is using his judicial mind and does not do what the party in power or persons big enough in the district dictate, then he is living in a fool's paradise. The Collector is only the agent of this Government and those who support them. Madam, as I have already said, it is not proper to overtax the Collector's time. There must be some other agency for this work. Officers of no less a rank than Sub-Judges of the Judicial Department must be empowered to go into this matter which involves delicate points of Hindu Law which the Collector will not be able to understand, as he is not trained for the purpose.

"When we have to assess the degree of gains or losses that have come to us as a result of the measures which the Government may claim as beneficial measures, it is possible that we could say that, in future, they may even levy a tax on air! They may say that certain crops require more air which has to be paid for. The Krishna river is running through my district and if the Honourable Minister comes forward and says: 'I tax you because you are having the river very near to you', I cannot help it. The Government are also going to do many other things. They are going to divert schemes."

AN HON. MEMBER :—"You mean divorce."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—"Divorce comes only after the elections! Madam, Deputy Speaker, I was telling the House that Government have selected schemes in a way convenient to themselves. They have postponed certain schemes for reasons well-known only to themselves and I would only say that these schemes have not been selected on any rational or regional basis.

"I was saying that Collectors are not suitable agencies. After the elections, we are going to have 375 members in this House instead of the present 200 and odd, and nobody knows what would happen if these members are let loose in the country to do public service! Leaving alone the Central Legislature and the Upper House, there will be 17 members of this House in my district after the elections. If the Collector of the district were to grant interviews of 5 minutes each to these 17 members you can imagine what time he will have to take. These Collectors, Deputy Collectors and Tahsildars, who are just promoted clerks and who depend upon this Government and unfortunately on this Minister for their promotion, should not be entrusted with these powers in the interests of the Government themselves. I know how many people approach the Government for this and that favour. Therefore, it is in the interests of Government alone that I say, they should not have such powers. Suppose, Madam, the Hon. Minister for Land

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Revenue is likely to appoint 25 District Labour Officers. Imagine how many people are likely to approach him. If this power is given to the Public Services Commission, how systematically it will be done!"

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"I am not able to follow the hon. Member."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—"Madam, my point is that this matter of deciding what benefit will be given to my 4 acres of land and how much I have to pay for it, should not be done through the agency of the Collector. I am giving these illustrations in the interests of the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue himself. I am repeating for the twenty-fifth time that this Government have become more dictatorial than ever and I can quote chapter and verse to show that they keep power in their own hands. As I have already stated, the Collector first decides and then there is an appeal to the Revenue Board. Again there is the revision by Government. Why should the Government take it up on revision? I can prove that Government have taken upon themselves more dictatorial powers than powers of revision. Five years is the minimum limit for the payment of the tax. Suppose I have got a certain number of acres and have got to pay Rs. 10,000? The Government can interfere and say 'You can exceed the limit of 5 years.' Why should the Government fix a minimum period? Suppose I want to pay immediately. Are they not going to receive it? Do the Government want money or power to secure votes or make matrimonial alliances? It is not as if to get money for the 5-year plan or the 15-year plan or whatever it may be that they want this power; it seems as if the Hon. the Revenue Minister wants power for patronage and for the opportunity to help each other. I want that the powers of the Government should be limited in their own interests. They should not have the power to extend the maximum time-limit beyond 10 years. The Hon. Minister for Land Revenue may say 'I use these powers in a proper and judicial manner.' It is not proper that he should have such vast powers. It is also not proper to fix the minimum time-limit, as some people might be anxious to pay immediately. There may be land-owners owning an acre or so. There may be some who may have to come to Madras, go to the Revenue Board and ultimately to this Fort in connexion with this tax. The Government can avoid all these and limit the appeal or revision to a certain place or stage.

"Madam, Deputy Speaker, this morning at the question hour the Government were asked as to why they had not proposed this levy for lands which are likely to be benefited by schemes of electricity and the Hon. Minister replied 'Yes, if any land-owner uses electricity he pays for it.' But he has not followed up that argument. Suppose A has got 10 acres of land and B has also got 10 acres of land. A has got electricity available nearby and he is able to get Rs. 1,000 per acre, while B, who has no electricity available, is not able to do so. It is not the question of paying

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money for the electricity that matters. The fact of the availability of electricity near the land raises its value. I hope the Minister will look into this matter.

"Madam, Deputy Speaker, even now it is not too late. In matters of this kind, the party in power will have to think twice, before taking any step, just before the elections. They have done enough to condemn themselves. Let not this also go into their account. Let not this packed House blur their vision and make them think that the country is behind them. I am very sorry there is no system, for instance, a well organized Gallup poll as in other countries, to gauge public opinion and decide whether this matter is so imperative as to be taken up first. Madam, having known, that the Government are not open to reason and are not likely to change their course when once they have come forward with this measure, having been so advised either by the Secretariat or the party in power, I leave it to them, at least to be reasonable during the Select Committee stage, so that when the Bill emerges out of the Select Committee it may contain some of the suggestions made by this side of the House. Thank you."

* SRI M. R. APPA RAO :—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, this is a Bill which introduces a new principle that people who benefit from irrigation projects must pay towards the cost of the projects. First of all, we must consider who are the people that are benefited by the irrigation projects. Everybody in the State is indirectly benefited as a result of food production because we are suffering from the inadequacy of food production. Therefore, a peasant who produces more food deserves encouragement and appreciation. All of us know that the prices of foodgrains have been controlled strictly and, if there are no controls, the prices of foodgrains would be higher. So, on account of controls, people who are producing foodgrains are suffering. It cannot be helped and everybody has to agree to this. Therefore it is not fair for the Government to ask them to bear this additional tax by way of betterment levy. They must think of some general tax which will be fair, if they want more money."

"Now let us examine the river systems in South India, the Cauvery, for example. Most of the Cauvery waters are used already. Take the Krishna. Ninety per cent of the waters are wasted. There are many projects to come in the Andhra districts. According to the Bill, if new projects are to be executed in Andhra districts, the tenants there will have to pay towards their construction by way of betterment levy. All of them know that food is being supplied to Tamilnad from the Andhra districts. Therefore, the people of Tamilnad also must pay towards the construction of projects in Andhra districts."

"As regards the method of payment, the hon. Member, Mr. Karanth, raised a point yesterday. Supposing the Government succeed in raising a loan for the construction of a project and that the project gives a good return, say five per cent. Why should the people again pay by way of betterment contributions? If the

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project is paying, betterment contributions need not be collected. Even if the project is not paying, Government should collect betterment contributions only to the extent of the loss and not on the whole appreciated price of the lands under the irrigation scheme.

"Another point I wish to urge is that betterment contributions should be treated as a loan and that three or four per cent should be paid by way of interest. The loan should be met from the General Revenues of the Government so that all people in the State will pay for it indirectly."

"On the question of the valuation of the lands, I suggest that the Collector, who is already heavily burdened with work and who will not be able to take into consideration all the factors that contribute to the increase in the value of the lands, should not be asked to assess the appreciation in the value of lands. The irrigation project is not the only thing that enhances the value of lands. Various extraneous factors, like improvement of the town, or improvement of roads nearby or inflationary tendencies should also be taken into consideration. What percentage is due to the irrigation project is a delicate point which requires the consideration of a careful appraiser. A Special Officer has to be appointed and above him judicial tribunals must be there to decide to what extent the irrigation project has really contributed to the appreciation in the land value."

"Then again, what about electricity generated under the project? Why should only the people who work on land be penalized and not the people who use electricity for industries, etc.? That is the most important point to be considered by the Government."

"Suppose a project costs a lakh of rupees. Why should the Government collect five or six lakhs of rupees by way of betterment levy? Nothing in this Bill shows that the Government should take only the costs of the project and not more."

"As regards the time allowed for payment, I do not think, five or ten years is enough. It should be at least 20 years in cases where the amount is high, so much so, the cultivators may pay from the benefits they have actually received from the irrigation project and not by selling or surrendering the land."

"Then Madam, this betterment contribution has, in my opinion, the characteristics of a regressive tax. Like income-tax there should be an element of progression. A poor tenant who is below economic level should be altogether exempted. Betterment contributions should be levied at Rs. 50 from those who possess holdings above five acres, and people who have got more than 50 acres should be asked to pay more, as is done in the case of other taxes."

"As regards the inclusion fee, Madam, it is not very clear how it will be levied and when it will be levied. I hope that the inclusion fee will not be levied once the betterment fee is paid for the same land. At the time of levying inclusion fee, ten years after the project is completed the land value may appreciate five times."

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I suggest therefore that the inclusion fee should in no case exceed the betterment fee paid at the time of the completion of the project. All these matters, I am sure, must be considered by the Select Committee. As this is a Bill which really introduces a great many difficulties and new principles, it must be thoroughly gone into and should not be hurried through. I am sure the Government will consider the pros and cons of the points raised, particularly the point that the betterment and inclusion fees should not be considered as a tax but as a loan bearing interest at three or four per cent, so that all the people who benefit indirectly by the projects pay for it from the revenues of the State."

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, it is very unfortunate that, at the lag-end of the term of this House, we should be called upon to be a party to a legislation of this kind. In fact it is not the only taxation legislation but two more legislations are to come up in the course of the session and for all these my good Friend, the Hon. Sri H. Sitarama Reddi, is to be the mover. I did really appreciate the point of my good Friend, Sri K. Brahmanandam Reddi, when he said the other day that a political party always tries to avoid taxation measures on the eve of elections. It is difficult to understand what is the immediate objective of the Congress Party which will go to the people very soon for their votes in the elections with these fresh taxation proposals. Whatever may be the people's attitude at the time of the elections, most of the members who have so far participated in the debate and also those who have participated in the debate on the Governor's Address have condemned this measure. I do admit that there was some loose talk in the House that the Government should have some betterment tax on agricultural lands which are likely to be benefited by the Government's irrigation projects and things of that sort. But nobody for a moment thought that the Hon. Revenue Minister or the Government will come forward with such a taxation proposal. For one thing, I find this measure and also measures which are to follow are surely going to be a big burden on the agriculturists of this State. As has been pointed out by many Members the only question which the Hon. Revenue Minister should put to himself is: 'Are the people, from whom this tax is to be levied, in a position to pay it?' I can understand the justification of the Government when they say that they are spending five or six crores of rupees here and therefore they are within their rights to have some portion of it. It may look all right, but, at the same time, it is logical that the Government should also understand the other aspects of the question, as to whether the people from whom this tax is to be levied are in a position to pay the tax. The Hon. Revenue Minister is really a very capable and clever man. Anticipating that the majority of the people from whom this tax is to be levied will not be in a position to pay it in a lump sum, he has made a definite provision that if they are not able to pay in money, they can part with some of their lands. I think that this itself is a proof that the Government are aware of the fact that the majority of the people

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will not be in a position to pay this tax. Madam, the whole of this taxation measure is unsound in principle and wrong. The object of the Bill is to see that particularly things in the field of agriculture are improved, as was pointed out by my hon. Friend, Sri R. V. Swaminathan. The Hon. Finance Minister, who is not here unfortunately, goes about boasting that during the five or six decades when the British were here they did practically nothing to develop electricity and agriculture. Although something tangible was done by them, the Finance Minister is not prepared to admit it but goes about saying, 'I am the representative of the people and I am spending 30 crores of rupees spread over a period of 20 years.' I am sure the people would be happy to support this Government if this piece of legislation is likely to benefit the agriculturists. This piece of legislation is the fruit of imagination running riot. To say that the value of the land would be increased by 100 per cent and therefore the Government should be given 40 or 50 per cent of this increase as the case may be is really not convincing.

"Before proceeding on a discussion of the clauses, I would like to ask one thing. The Central Government have got very big irrigation schemes and are spending two hundred and three hundred crores of rupees. They have got big schemes in the East Punjab and they have the Damodar Valley Scheme which is on a par with the Tennessee Valley Scheme. I want to know whether they too have got any proposal to levy such a sort of betterment levy. What about other States having huge irrigation schemes? One would like to know whether those Governments have any schemes to tax the people in such an indirect manner? Some of the Hon. Ministers have been saying times without number, on the floor of the House and outside that their idea is not to have these irrigation programmes in some selected areas only but to see that they have them in backward areas also. For example, the Rayalaseema is regarded as a backward area, which has been ignored for a long time. It was good of this Government of Madras to have come forward with the Tungabhadra Scheme, an important scheme which I understand will cost so many crores. After having done that and after having made promises that they would do this and that to improve the Rayalaseema area, will it be right on the part of this Government now to go and say to the Rayalaseema people: 'You are a backward area; we have been trying to do good to you, and you are now getting the benefit of it all; we want a portion of your benefit, we want our pound of flesh; therefore, give us 40 or 50 per cent of the increase in the value of your land.' I cannot understand such an attitude.

"To support one's point of view, one can go on arguing in any way, and another, in support of his view which may be quite different, may also argue and even quote instances in support of his arguments. Similarly, the Hon. Minister can adduce many arguments in support of his proposal. For the matter of that, as the Hon. Minister is aware, when the Gandhinagar Construction Scheme was started somewhere near Adyar, the value of the land in

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the area was only about Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 per ground; but with the coming in of the Gandhinagar scheme and its completion, the value of the land and also of houses, in the surrounding area has gone up considerably. You cannot now go to the people living in the neighbouring areas and say 'the value of your land or house has doubled on account of the carrying out of the Gandhinagar scheme; therefore you should pay me a portion of it, or you will be dispossessed of one or two of your houses there'. To take a concrete instance: I may be having a few houses in the City and my income by way of rent from them has not increased in any way on account of any measure passed here. But if you simply make a valuation of my property, it is quite likely that the value as such, might have increased by 20 or 30 or even 50 per cent, because the present rates, so far as houses are concerned, are really more by 50 or 60 per cent, than the 1938 or 1939 level. But then, I do not think the Government will be justified in asking me to pay them Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 15,000, being 50 per cent of the increased value, on the ground that the value of my house property has increased enormously. If I say I am not in a position to pay the amount either in a lump sum or in instalments over a period of years, the Government will not be right in asking me to give away to them one or two of my houses and say that will satisfy them. It seems to be quite illegal and the Bill, as it has been drafted, is very ill-conceived. The very fact that the Hon. Revenue Minister has thought it better to include a provision for paying the amount in instalments or in the shape of handing over a part of the property shows that he has thought of a contingency arising where people may not have the necessary money to pay. Even the richest of men may not always have the necessary cash to meet their ordinary requirements. Madam, Deputy Speaker, you know something about the business people. If you want to have a valuation made of their business, you cannot find any cash in their hands, nor even in the Bank; their capital will be going and coming; and if you want them to raise an amount of Rs. 5 or 6 lakhs, they will be able to do so only by deciding to beg, borrow or steal. That is the case, as you know, with the majority of businessmen. I know some of the Members here also are businessmen and they will understand this difficulty. The valuation of the houses may have increased, but the owner may not be getting any increased income out of the increase in value. It is not like the rice crops which, when some improvement or repair is made to the water source, will give a greater income to the ryot. In such a case, to go to the party and say 'you must pay more or you must part with a portion of the property' is not at all fair. I therefore feel, Madam, that it is absolutely unfair to enact such a piece of legislation.

"The other day the Minister said, we would have a five-year plan. Madam, people in this State are getting tired of these five, ten or fifteen year plans. The masses feel that their present problem is to somehow get on in life; even an educated man today feels much difficulty in getting on in life, with all the misery, the sufferings, the controls, the reduced rations, etc. The ration has been reduced

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from 8 oz. to 6 oz. already, and I do not know what the Hon. Minister Mr. Roche Victoria is going to do tomorrow about it. When people are in this unfortunate and miserable condition, are you going to approach the illiterate masses and tell them; 'Well, I have got these five-year plans, these ten-year plans and fifteen year plans; and do you mean to say you can satisfy the people with them? If you think that in view of the impending elections, somehow or other, by putting forward such proposals before the people, you must get yourselves elected, then I say, after all, getting yourself elected to the Assembly is not everything. You must appeal to the people, place before them your proposals, and see whether they are really satisfied with your proposals. As the hon. Gentleman Mr. R. V. Swaminathan said"

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—"On a point of order, Madam."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"Please make sure, before you raise the point of order, that it is a point of order."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—"It is a point of order."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"What is your point of order, let me know?"

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—"I want to know when we are going to adjourn for lunch."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"Please explain your point of order."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—"When are you going to adjourn the House for lunch? The clock on the northern side is showing 1-20, the one on the western wall shows 1-20, while that on the eastern wall shows the time as 1-23 p.m. May I know by which clock, we will be adjourning at 1-30?"

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"Do you seriously think it is a point of order, or are you bringing it to the notice of the House that these clocks are showing different timings? It is certainly not a point of order. If there is any difference in the time shown by these clocks, surely it can be corrected easily. That is not a matter for raising a point of order."

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—"Madam, I was arguing that it is not enough for this Government to go about with their wonderful five and ten-year plans. I say this Government may certainly have this as a part of their election programme; they can go before the public and say: 'we have got these taxation proposals by which you will be called upon to pay something to the Government; it is all in your own interests and it is all to your benefit, because we are going to carry out the five-year programme.' The Government may place such proposals before the public, and, after ascertaining the wishes of the public, they can take their decision and then come forward before the new House, where I am sure they can stand up and say boldly: 'What is the use of a few members objecting to all these proposals? we have got the consent of the public; they have given us the power to impose these taxes,

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and we are going to pass the necessary legislation for the purpose'. The Hon. Finance Minister—he is not present in the House now—may say that only a few members are complaining of this and that in this House; but although we are told that wherever he goes people come in their hundreds and thousands with all bright shining and happy faces, I am yet to find such a thing; wherever I saw him addressing people in my constituency and whenever we had very good reports that hundreds and thousands of people attended the meetings and that they were all praise for the Government, etc., I can say there was nothing of the sort. Wherever the Ministers, particularly the Finance Minister addressed meetings, questions were put to him which were very very embarrassing and which he could not answer; people were not satisfied, and so questions which were difficult and troublesome, were put to him and he could not answer them. I know in many places, when such questions were put, he even got excited—as is usual with him—and yet today we have heard the Finance Minister making such a statement thinking perhaps that it would go unchallenged. But I submit, Madam, all these things are to be tested in the coming elections. After the elections, I am sure things will take their own course, as they ought to, and therefore, let me not dilate on them just now.

“So far as the Hon. Revenue Minister is concerned, he is quite a safe person and his work is mostly confined to the Legislature. He knows, if he goes to Rayalaseema for which he has promised to do a lot of things, what sort of response he will get from the people. I do not think he will be able to satisfy the people of the Rayalaseema area. He cannot tell them: ‘Here I am as your representative; I am such a bold man as to come out with such proposals for taxation, and you have to pay the tax in your own interest.’ Not only the Members of the Opposition but a good majority of the Members of the party in power and even the people who have rightly or wrongly seceded from the party in power, every one has vehemently opposed the entire taxation proposals; but all the same they have said: ‘When people are going to be benefited, let them be there.’

“A number of Members have spoken about the impracticability of the work of the Collector who will be entrusted with the work of finding out the difference in the cost of land. Some of the clauses of the Bill are not worded properly. But let me come to the pertinent point. Some people who are landowners never thought that the Hon. Mr. Sitarama Reddi would come forward with such a Bill as this. They might have purchased lands in the year 1942 or 1943; some people who made money during the war purchased lands then and today they are being called upon to pay a betterment fee. It will be very hard on such people, and that is another point on which the Minister should satisfy the Members of the House. If it is left to me and many of us on this side, I would advise the Government to withdraw this measure just now. They can wait for three or four months and nothing will be lost and take it up after the elections. Probably the Government may feel that it is a question of prestige, and that having introduced it, if they withdraw it now,

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they would be cutting an awkward figure. If still they persist in getting on with it, I would request the Hon. Revenue Minister to think a hundred times before allowing it to go before a Select Committee.

“There is however a silver lining here, and that is that Hon. Mr. Sitarama Reddi is in charge of this measure. What is more, it is going to a Select Committee and I am confident that with his broad outlook, with the experience he has gained from his foreign tours, and his foreign contacts, he will be very reasonable in going through the clauses. It is of course easy to pass a legislation of this kind, but surely the Government ought to think of the people who are to pay the tax. I hope when this House gives him permission to go to the Select Committee, he will not say: ‘My department wants this provision and that provision’. I know he will have a packed majority in the Select Committee. Still, I say that he must see how this tax will affect the man who is going to pay it. And it will be a real good fortune if at the end of it all we are able to say that the hardships and difficulties in this Bill are not so much after all as we originally believed.”

Sri K. T. KOSALRAM :—“Madam Deputy Speaker, betterment fee விதிக்கவேண்டுமென்று சர்க்கார் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கும் இந்த மசோதாவை எதிர்த்து நேற்றி விருந்து விவாதம் நடந்துவருகிறது. இந்த நாட்டில் புட்டிகாரமான சிறந்த மாறுதலை உண்டாக்கவேண்டுமென்று இந்த சபையில் எந்த மனோதரத்தை கொண்டுவந்தாலும் அதற்கு எப்பொழுதும் எதிர்ப்பு இருந்துகொண்டேயுள்ளது. ஆனால், நேற்று என்னுடைய நண்பர் ஸ்ரீமான் நடுச ரெட்டியார் அவர்கள் பேசும்போது, ‘இந்த அரசாங்கம் ஜனங்களை exploit பண்ணுகிறது’ என்று சொன்னார். உண்மையில் இந்த அரசாங்கம் ஜனங்களை exploit பண்ணுவதாய் இருந்தால், ‘ஜமீன்தாரர்களுக்கு நிலங்கள் நாட்டாடு கொடுக்கிறார்கள்’ என்று நாங்கள் சொன்னோம், மக்கள் சொன்னார்கள், நாடு முழுவதும் சொன்னது. அவ்வாறு நாட்டிலுள்ள மக்கள் ஜமீன்தாரர்களுக்கு ஏராளமாக பணத்தை, சுமார் 12½ கோடி ரூபாய் வரையில், அள்ளிக்கொடுத்தது. அப்படி அள்ளிக் கொடுத்தும் அவர்கள் அரசாங்கத்தைக் குறை சொல்லிக்கொண்டு இந்த betterment fee போடக்கூடாதென்று வாதம் செய்கிறார்கள். 1943-ம் வருஷத்திலிருந்து retrospective effect கொடுக்க வேண்டுமா, கொடுக்க வேண்டாமா என்பதைப்பற்றி select committee இல் விவாதித்துக் கொள்ளலாம். அதற்குப் போதிய அவகாசம் இருக்கிறது. ஆனால், ரூ. 100 வரையில் பெருமானமுள்ள நிலமானது இந்த irrigation scheme வந்த பிறகு சுமார் ரூ. 2,000 வரையில் விறக்கக்கூடிய நிலமாகும்போது ஏன் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு betterment fee கொடுக்கக் கூடாது என்பது எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. ‘மனிமுத்தூர் திட்டத்திற்கு நாங்கள் பணம் கொடுக்கின்றோம்; ஏகா என்றுக்கு ரூ. 200, ரூ. 300 வரையில் betterment fee கொடுக்கின்றோம்; நீங்கள் திட்டத்தைக் கொண்டு வாராங்கள்’ என்று நெல்லை ஜில்லாவாசிகள் சொன்னார்கள். ஒன்றரை வருஷத்திற்கு முன்னாலேயே அவர்கள் மனமுலவந்து இந்த பணத்தைத் தருவதற்கு முன்னந்தார்கள். அவ்வாறே நாங்கள், நெல்லை ஜில்லா வாசிகள், பணம் கொடுத்திருக்கின்றோம். ஆனால், கனம் ஸ்ரீமான் பெருமானுடைய ரெட்டி அவர்கள், ‘திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லாவாசிகள் அடையப்போகும் நன்மைக்காக, நாங்கள், வடாற்காடு ஜில்லாவாசிகள் ஏன் பணம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும்?’ என்று கேட்டார்கள். அது நியாயமானதுதான் என்பதை நான் ஒத்துக்கொள்கிறேன். (Sri M. G. Natesa Chettiar interrupted.)

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SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—"That is all private conversation and not for the House."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"You cannot refer to private conversation here."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—"உண்மையில் நாங்கள், திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லா வாசிகள் நலம் பெறவேண்டுமென்று தான் பணத்தைக் கொடுத்தோம். அதன் பலனை அடையப் போகிறோம் என்பதில் சந்தேகமில்லை. இந்த ராஜ்ய மக்களின் நன்மைக்காக எத்தனையோ irrigation schemes தாங்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன என்று கனம் ஸ்ரீமான் பக்தவத்சலம் அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார். அந்தத் திட்டங்களெல்லாம் ஏன் இன்னும் அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவரப்படவில்லை? அரசாங்கத்தினிடம் பணம் இல்லாத குறை தான். நாட்டில் உணவு பெருக வேண்டுமென்று நாம் சொல்லிக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றோம். 6' அவுன்ஸ் அரிசி ரேஷன் போதாது, 16 அவுன்ஸ் வரையில் உயர்த்தப்படவேண்டும் என்றெல்லாம் சொல்லிக் கொண்டு இருக்கின்றோம். இவ்விதம் சொல்லிக்கொண்டே இருந்தால், எந்த நாளில் நம்முடைய தேசம் சுயதேவைப்பூர்த்தி அடையுமென்று நான் கேட்கின்றேன். ஆதலால், மக்கள் முன் வந்து பணம் கொடுக்க வேண்டும். அவர்களிடத்திலிருந்து பறிமுதல் செய்யப்படவேண்டுமென்று நான் சொல்லவில்லை. இந்தத் திட்டங்களினால் அவர்களுடைய நிலம் தான் அபிவிருத்தி அடையப்போகிறது. ஒரு ஏக்கர் ரூ. 100 பெருமான முள்ள நிலம் சுமார் ரூ. 2,000 வரை பெருமானமுள்ளதாக ஆகும் போது அவர்கள் ஏன் betterment fees கொடுக்கத் தயங்கவேண்டும் என்பது தெரியவில்லை. Betterment fee 50 per cent maximum என்று இந்த மசோதாவில் கண்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த 50 per cent சதுப்பு நிலமாக 10 per cent தான் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று கலெக்டர் சிபார்சு செய்தால் இந்த அரசாங்கம் ஒப்புக் கொள்ளாதா? 10 per cent தான் போட வேண்டுமென்று ரெவின்யூ போர்டுக்கோ அல்லது அரசாங்கத்திற்கோ தெரிவிக்க கலெக்டருக்கு உரிமை இல்லையா என்று தான் நான் கேட்கின்றேன்."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member will continue his speech after lunch."

The House then rose for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, இப்பொழுது இந்த betterment fee ஐக் கொடுக்க வேண்டுமா அல்லது கொடுக்க வேண்டாமா என்று இந்த மசோதாவை எதிர்ப்பவர்களில் இரண்டு ரகத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களுக்கின்றார்கள். அதில் ஒன்று செழிப்பான பிரதேசங்களில் அதாவது deltaic area க்களில் சுக போகத்தை அனுபவித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கக்கூடிய நமது நண்பர் கனம் சலாம் போன்றவர்களும், மற்றொன்று ஒரு திட்டம் கூட வரமுடியாது என்று நினைக்கக்கூடிய ஜில்லா வாசியாகிய எனது நண்பர் கனம் R. V. சுவாமிநாதன் போன்ற இராமநாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவாசிகளும் தான் இதை எதிர்ப்பார்கள். (Sri R. V. Swaminathan : 'Question'.) அத்துடன் ரொம்பவும் செழிப்பான தேசத்திலிருப்பவர்கள் தாங்கள் ஏற்கனவே செழிப்பாக இருக்கின்றோம் அதற்கு எதிராக வரட்சியாக உள்ள பிரதேசத்தவர்களும் தமக்கு சமமாக செழிப்புள்ளவர்களாகி விடுவார்கள் என்ற ஒரு எண்ணத்தினாலும் இதை எதிர்க்கலாம். ஆகவே ஒரு பக்கம் வரட்சியாகக் கிடந்து இப்பொழுது செழிப்பாகப் போகிறது என்ற காரணத்தினாலும் மேலே சொன்ன இரண்டு காரணங்களினாலும் இதை எதிர்ப்பார்களேயன்றி இதை எதிர்க்க வேறு ஒரு காரணமும் இருக்க முடியாது."

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[Sri K. T. Kosalram]

"நமது சட்டசபை அங்கத்தினர் நண்பர் கனம் லிங்க ராஜா அவர்கள்—அவர் இப்பொழுது இங்கு இல்லை—அரசாங்கம் கொண்டு வரக்கூடிய எந்த விதமான மசோதாவையும் பெரும்பாலும் எதிர்க்கக்கூடியவர்களில் ஒருவர். அவர் ஒரு நாள் பேசும்போது ராமபாதசாகர் project-க்கு 1½ கோடி ரூபாய் betterment fee போடுங்கள் அதைக் கொடுக்கிறோம் என்றும், இப்பொழுது அந்த project-ஐக் கொண்டு வாருங்கள் என்றும், இந்த சட்ட சபையில் சொன்னார். இப்பொழுது வைகை திட்டம் இருக்கிறது. அமராவதி திட்டம், கீழ் பவானி திட்டம், துங்க பத்திரா திட்டம் முதலியவைகள் இருக்கின்றன. அங்குள்ள சட்ட சபை அங்கத்தினர்களெல்லாம் அந்தந்தத் திட்டங்களைக் கொண்டு வாருங்கள் என்று சொல்லுகின்றார்கள். பொது மக்களாக இருந்தாலும், betterment fee போடுங்கள், நாங்கள் கொடுக்கிறோம் என்றும் திட்டத்தை உடனடியாக நிறைவேற்ற வேண்டுமென்றும் சொல்லுகின்றார்கள். கனம் பக்தவத்சலம் அவர்களுடைய கிரியார் திட்டம் இப்பொழுது இருக்கிறது. அதனுடைய investigation இப்பொழுது முடிந்தது. Betterment fee போடுங்கள் கொடுக்கிறோம், உடனடியாக நிறைவேற்றிக் கொடுங்கள் என்று கேட்கிறோம். திட்டம் இருக்கும் இடங்களில் பொது மக்கள் தாராளமாக இதை ஆதரிக்கிறார்கள். அதற்கு பணம் கொடுக்கவும் தயாராக இருக்கிறார்கள். நாடுமுன்னேற்றமடைய வேண்டாமா? அதற்கு வேண்டிய வழி ஒன்றையும் சொல்லாமல் நாட்டின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக சர்க்கார் கொண்டு வரக்கூடிய ஒவ்வொரு மசோதாவையும் பொது மக்களின் பெயரால் எதிர்த்துக்கொண்டே இருந்தால் அது அவ்வளவு அழகாக இல்லை. பொது மக்களுடைய நன்மைக்கும் தேச நன்மைக்காகவும் சர்க்கார் சட்டங்கள் கொண்டு வந்தால் அவைகளை வெறுமனே எதிர்த்துக்கொண்டே இருந்தால் அதுவும் அவ்வளவு அழகாக இல்லை. அது தேச நலனுக்கும் உகந்தது இல்லை என்பதை நான் சொல்லாமல் இருக்க முடியவில்லை. உண்மையில் நான் ஏற்கனவே சொன்னேன், நமது கனம் செட்டி நாடு ராஜா தான் இந்த Estate Duty-ஐ எதிர்க்கிறார்கள் என்றால் அவர்கள் அதனால் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறார். அதனால் தான் அந்த மசோதாவை அவர் எதிர்க்கிறார்."

MR. SPEAKER :—"ஒருவருடைய motive-ஐப்பற்றி நீங்கள் இங்கு சொல்லக்கூடாது."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—"அவர் தன்னுடைய நன்மைக்காக எதிர்க்கிறார். தான் பாதிக்கப்படுவதால் அதை எதிர்க்கிறார். அவ்விதம் பாதிக்கப்படுபவர்கள் இதை எதிர்க்கும்பொழுது இந்த சட்டசபையில் மக்களுடைய பெயரால் இந்த மசோதாக்களை எதிர்க்கிறார்கள். அவ்விதம் நாட்டின் நலனுக்காகக் கொண்டுவரப்படும் சட்டங்களை யெல்லாம் மக்களுடைய பெயரால் சட்ட சபையில் எதிர்ப்பது என்பது இப்பொழுது நம் சபையில் அதிகமாக வளர்ந்து வருகிறது என்பதை நாம் இப்பொழுது கண்கூடாகப் பார்க்கிறோம். இந்த மசோதாவினால் ஒன்றும் கெட்டுவிடாது."

"இப்பொழுது 50 per cent maximum-ஆகப் போடலாம் என்று இருப்பதை Select Committee-யில் எவ்வளவு குறைவாகப் போட்டுக் கொள்ளலாமோ அதைப் போட்டுக்கொள்ளலாம். அதற்கு retrospective effect . 1943-ம் வருஷத்திலிருந்து கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று மசோதாவில் கண்டிருக்கிறது. நான் சொல்லுகிறேன், இந்த அரசாங்கம் 1946-ம் வருஷம் அதிகாரத்திற்கு வந்திருப்பதால் அந்த வருஷத்திலிருந்து இதற்கு retrospective effect கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்றிருந்தால் நன்றாக இருக்கும் என்று நான் நினைக்கின்றேன். இப்பொழுது 1943-ம் வருஷத்திலிருந்து என்றிருப்பதை சில மெம்பர்கள் ஏன் எதிர்க்கிறார்கள் என்று யோசித்துப் பார்க்கும்போது சில திட்டங்கள் ஏற்கனவே பூர்த்தியடைந்து இப்பொழுது சுகபோகமாக இருக்கிறார்கள். அவைகளுக்கும் இப்பொழுது duty போட்டு அவைகளுக்கும் இப்பொழுது சேர்த்து வருலித்து விடுவார்கள் என்றும் பயப்படுகிறார்கள். அதனால் தான் இதை எதிர்க்கின்றார்கள் என்பது எனக்கு நன்றாகத் தெரியும். இந்த நிலைமையில் யாருக்கும் பயம் ஏற்படாமலிருப்பதற்காக 1946-ம்

[Sri K. T. Kosalram]

[29th August 1951]

வருஷத்திலிருந்து retrospective effect கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று Select Committee-யில் அதைப்பற்றி யோசித்து மாற்றியமைத்தால் இதற்கு யாதொரு எதிர்ப்பும் சொல்லாமல் சாதகமாகவும் இருப்பார்கள்.

“இந்த நிலைமையில், அரசாங்கத்தினிடம் பணம் இல்லாமலிருக்கும் நிலைமையில் National Planning Commission-ன் சிபார்சை நாம் நிறைவேற்ற வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னோம். அதற்கு வழி செய்வதற்கு இப்பொழுது ஒரு சிலரிடத்தில் பணம் இருக்கிறது. அவ்விதம் பணம் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கக் கூடியவர்களிடமிருந்து பணத்தை வாங்கி அதனால் பிரயோசனப்படக்கூடியவர்களுக்கு உதவி செய்ய பணத்தை வசூலித்துதான் இந்த நாட்டை செழிப்புறச் செய்ய முடியும். அவ்வித மில்லாமல் வெறும்மேனே எதற்கெடுத்தாலும் எதிர்த்துக்கொண்டே இருப்பது அவ்வளவு அழகல்ல என்பதை சொல்லிக் கொண்டு இத்தகுடன் நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“As there are still many hon. Members who want to take part in the discussion, I fix a time-limit of 10 minutes for each Member.”

JANAB MOHAMED RAFFEEUDDIN AHMAD ANSARI :—

“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have every sympathy with the Government in their efforts to raise additional sources of revenue, but, Sir, I must say that this particular measure of taxation is very unsatisfactory. In the first instance, I think, this measure is wrong in principle. It seeks to levy a tax upon a particular section of people to whom the Government have brought certain benefits. The Government say, ‘We have done this for you and therefore you have to pay for it.’ What it implies is, that whenever they do anything for any particular section of people, that particular section of people has to re-imburse the Government to the extent that Government spent upon them. It seeks to divide the people into various sections, which is very wrong in principle. The very logical implication would be, if the Government do not spend any money, say, for a particular district, or for a particular area in a district, the population of that district, or that area of the district, need not pay any money to the Government. It is the logical consequence. And, what happens is this. The very basis of taxation, namely, that a tax must be levied upon all the people . . .”

MR. SPEAKER :—“That is why it is not called a tax, but a fee.”

JANAB MOHAMED RAFFEEUDDIN AHMAD ANSARI :—

“Yes, Sir. Much was said about it yesterday and so I do not want to deal with it now. It is only an academic question. But, whether it is a tax or a fee, the result is the same. It seeks to levy a certain duty and take some money out of the people. The very basis of taxation is this. Irrespective of whether a particular section of the people is benefited by it or not, the whole people of the State is made to share the burden equally. I shall give a few instances. Supposing a thermal station is opened in a particular district, the people of that particular district alone should be made to pay the cost that has been incurred by the Government in building up that thermal station. Also, if the Government constructed a bridge over a river which flows through a particular

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district, then again the people of that district or the people who use the bridge alone must pay the cost of the bridge. It amounts to a water-tight compartmentalisation of people, which is not at all proper. Then, what would happen is this. The Government of India may turn round and say, that ‘a particular project has been made for your State and therefore the people of your State must pay for the cost of the project’. It is, of course, all right that this Government try to get money out of certain sections of the people in this State, but they will know the pinch of it when the Central Government advance their own arguments and use them against the State Government and say, ‘here it is we have spent so many crores of rupees upon the project that will benefit your State and therefore your State alone must pay the full cost.’ Therefore, Sir, I say it is wrong in principle, and it has also never been done anywhere at any time before.

“Then, of course, Sir, the Government may cite the example of the Town-Planning Act, under which betterment contribution is leviable, but the two things are entirely different and the various methods which are prescribed under the Town-Planning Act by which this contribution is recovered and all that are different. Now, here what the Government seek to do is to improve the agricultural condition of the people, which is their primary duty. Therefore, the Government cannot ask only the people of a particular district or a section of the people of a district alone who are directly benefited under that project, to re-imburse the Government the entire cost of it. Therefore, I say this taxation measure is wrong in principle. And I would go further and say that it is unjust, because what the Government are now seeking to do is, what they owe to the people of that area or that district and it is one of the duties of a Government to improve the lot of the people, so that people living in various districts, whether they are backward or forward, are given almost equal amount of facilities and amenities in matters of living conditions. For instance, there is a backward area of a district which has not been attended to so far and which has been neglected so far by the Government. Now, the people of that backward area have been living under very hard conditions; they have been living under a definite disadvantage, compared to their fellow-citizens living in more prosperous areas; and it is the duty of the Government, or rather, the declared policy of the Government, to see that the backward areas also are brought into line with the prosperous areas. But, now, what the Government are seeking to do is, they are trying to do their duty which they have so far neglected and at the same time, what they are giving with one hand, they are trying to take away with the other hand.

“In Nellore district there are the delta areas and the people living in those areas are reaping the advantages of their position and are making huge profits. In contradistinction to the people living in the delta areas, there are others living in the dry and backward areas, agitating and complaining that the Government

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have not bestowed enough attention on them, all their attention has so far only been devoted towards the more prosperous areas and therefore, the Government should do something for them. That is how the Government are doing all these things; they are starting the projects, digging channels and deepening tanks. But while doing so, the Government say: 'We have spent so much money for you and therefore, you had better give us back that money.' That is the basis of this taxation measure but I feel, Sir, that it is going to work a great hardship upon the people. Suppose an acre of dry land costs Rs. 500; after the completion of an irrigation work, it is converted into a wet land and its value naturally will rise to Rs. 2,000. What is sought to be levied under the new Act is one half of the difference between the old and the appreciated value of the land. From Rs. 500 the cost will be increased to Rs. 2,000 and one half of the difference, namely, half of Rs. 1,500 will have to be paid. In other words in respect of a property costing Rs. 2,000, you are taking away Rs. 750. It will be working a great hardship upon the people who are already suffering and are in a backward condition economically. What the Government now seek to do is their primary duty and it is unjust and it is not right to levy a special tax upon the people who have been neglected so long.

"The present measure seeks to levy the contribution on the basis of the capital value of the land irrespective of the cost of the irrigation work. There are, as you very well know, Sir, various kinds of works, big projects costing crores of rupees and there are also small ones which will cost small sums of Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000, just like carrying out certain drainage works, putting or digging some channels, which will connect dry lands to some project. The lands would of course improve to some extent, in that dry lands would be converted into wet lands but to say on that account, that the land-owner under this scheme must pay the same amount which a land-owner under a major irrigation work pays is, I feel, Sir, unjust, in so far as by this they would be seeking to recover twice or thrice the value of the money spent upon the particular work. Unless a maximum is fixed with reference to the cost of the project, it will work a great hardship on the people. These are things which, I hope, will be considered at the Select Committee stage. I submit, Sir, that the idea behind the Bill is ill-conceived and I would say one more thing. It is certainly strange that a taxation measure of this kind should be brought before the House in the middle of the year instead of at the Budget time as is done in Parliament. In Parliament, it is only at the time of the presentation of the Budget that measures for the imposition of duties and taxes are outlined and made known to the public and I should think that the Government should follow that example."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while re-affirming and re-stating my objections to the measure with reference to the competence of the Legislature to deal with this measure under the terms of the Constitution, I shall only confine

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myself to suggestions to the Government to minimise its rigours and mitigate the difficulties to which the people may be put as a result of the measure being put through the House by the Government. My fear, Sir, is that the clauses of the Bill are dangerous. The first suggestion I would make in that connection is that the inclusion fee must be based on the cost of the new work or the extension or the improvements that may be carried out after this Act comes into force. Another thing is, that the assent of 60 per cent of the people agreeing to the construction of the scheme must be there and the levy of the contribution or the inclusion fee should be limited to 25 per cent of the cost of the scheme and this should be the utmost that should be collected. The collection of the fees on the basis of the appreciated value must not create any difficulties and whatever it may be, the fee levied must in no case exceed 25 per cent of the cost of the work. For purposes of determining or assessing the contribution or the inclusion fee, a tribunal must be appointed and it must be of a judicial nature and provision should exist for cases being taken on appeal to the High Court or the Supreme Court, if need be, and a provision to that effect must find a place in the Act and the payment of contribution should not be insisted upon nor should its recovery be proceeded with till the proceedings before the Court become final. The provision in the Bill regarding the surrender of the land must be cancelled. If a ryot is not able to make a cash payment, it must be spread over a period of years, say 20 years and instalments should be collected annually from him. He should not be weighed down with a debt even at the commencement of the period of usefulness of the land as that will not be conducive to the growth of agriculture. Previous charges or mortgages or any inalienable right should not be interfered with and there must not be any forfeiture of those rights already vesting. Regarding collection of the charges, it must not be under the ordinary provisions of the Revenue Recovery Act. Lastly, Sir, I wish to say that the appreciated value of the land should be determined with reference to the conditions obtaining after five years after the completion of the construction, improvement or extension of the scheme of irrigation work. It would be wrong, I submit, Sir, to proceed with the question of assessing the value immediately. The Government must wait for five years and see what the value is then. In some cases, it may be more but it does not matter but the ryot under the ayacut must be sure of the appreciated value of the land. With these improvements, I feel, Sir, that the Government might carry on for the present but that is subject to the competence of this Legislature to legislate upon this question. It is needless for me to point out to the House that there are provisions in the Bill which are contrary to the interests of the Grow More Food Campaign and there will not be so many of the inducements for making the State self-sufficient in the matter of food. Rice is the staple food of the State and irrigation works are always connected with the rice-producing areas in the State and these will be very much affected by the provisions of the Bill unless they are suitably changed in the Select Committee. Then, Sir, with the lands that the Government propose to take in lieu of the contribution on the inclusion

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fee, I do not know what the Government propose to do. Some irrigation works may be confined to a particular district at the outset but there may be extensions later not only to other districts but expansions may be made for some other purposes also. In that case there may be rebate provided for the original contributors. It is not absolutely necessary that an irrigation work must be only for purposes of irrigating lands; it may be harnessed for electric-supply purposes or water-supply purposes to a village or a town or it may be connected to a drainage scheme and these will be things which will contribute to the total cost of the scheme. Therefore, Sir, the most and the least that I could suggest is that the Select Committee should take note of the points that I have raised and they must remember what sort of hardships the people are likely to be put to by means of a legislation which I feel, the Government are not competent to undertake without the above suggestions included in this Bill."

3 p.m. * DR. D. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the betterment contribution proposed in this Bill may be considered as a compulsory contribution from the economic point of view and, therefore, partakes of the nature of a tax. It is not quite a straight and simple tax. It is supposed to be a fee, but a fee which is pregnant or rather bristles with difficulties, because when you analyse the question, you do not know really where you started from and where you are going to stop ultimately. In cities like Madras, for instance, it is not only the contribution of the Government but also the incapacity of the Government that makes for the difference in the level of amenities granted to the people. If there should be, for instance, facilities for locomotion in all parts of the State and the costs of travelling be uniform, there will be no difference between living in the centre of the city and in the outskirts thereof. Just because the Government or the Corporation cannot give the people these facilities all over, the difference arises and the people living on the fringe of the city are incapacitated thereby and, therefore, they wish to go to the centre of the town to get more amenities. There arises the difference between the centre of the town and the outskirts of the town, because amenities are different. If the Corporation had the capacity to uniformly distribute all the amenities, then this kind of disparity in comforts would not arise. That is how the value of properties rise in one place and not quite so in another. Therefore, it is not an easy question; various elements come into play. Prices may continue to rise, though it may not be due to the particular contribution made by the Government. The general level of prices all the world over may contribute to the rising up of the prices and therefore the Government cannot claim a large portion of it just because there happens to be a rise in the value of the land for which the Government are only partly responsible. Secondly, there is a fancy price. Some people would like to be in the crowd and, therefore, they would like to pay any price for living in a congested area. Other people would like to live away from the crowd and whatever other difficulties there may be, they may pay a high price just to live in the outskirts of the city and consequently if the Government contribute

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something towards their amenities, they should not force these people to pay additional tax. The same applies to owners of land also. They have no alternative and you compel them to pay it whether they like it or not. Therefore, it is a compulsory contribution. If you say it is a voluntary contribution, I ask, have you given them any option? You must tell the public that you are going to build up such and such projects and therefore they must contribute something for them. Then, I can understand it. But you are forcing on them something which is not only compulsory but also arbitrary. On the one side, we do propaganda for growing more food but, on the other hand, when scarcity is acute and people have not yet got a square meal a day, we thrust this tax on the people who are trying to take advantage of the water-supply that has been provided by the Government. Therefore, it seems it is a needless, unnecessary, vexatious and compulsory burden upon the people just at this unfortunate period.

" Sir, it is also very unwise, because people have begun to ask already, ' Why are the Government in such a hurry to bring forward this Bill? ' Have they found out the wishes of the people at large and given them time? Even we, the legislators, have not been given sufficient time. This Bill has been thrust upon us rather hurriedly. People also suggest that, just because they are in a majority just now and are not confident of their majority in the next elections, they want to push through this Bill. I ask, what is the reason for this hurry? If you are in need of money, there are other ways by which you can raise money. There is the method of economy in expenditure. Have you effected economy in the cost of administration? If you have exhausted all these methods of economy, then you can come here for additional taxation. There is a complaint all over the State that the Government are liberal and there is extravagant expenditure in almost every department. Have the Government done everything in their power to curtail their expenditure? They have not done anything in this direction. Therefore, I for one, knowing the people's wishes, cannot be a party to the passing of this measure which is vexatious and untimely."

* SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, with great regret, I have to disagree with this Bill brought forward by the Revenue Minister. It is all the more regrettable that he being an agriculturist himself, and who knows the conditions of the people and how it will work hard on them, should pilot this Bill. Sir, under the present system, as I said yesterday, it is the agriculturist who is being hit hard by any new tax. Take for instance, the Sales Tax. Though it may appear that the consumer is paying it, ultimately it is the agriculturist who is paying it. I ask why, at this state, Government should bring forward this legislation and why not it be left to the future Legislature? It is most unfortunate that this Bill has been brought forward in the last days of the Legislature. It contains some very serious defects which must be rectified in the Select Committee stage. The most important of these defects is to be found in clause 4. According to

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clause 4, one-half of the enhanced value of the land should be given as betterment contribution. In the actual working of this Bill, many other discrepancies and lapses will creep in. So, in my humble opinion, I suggest that this betterment contribution be fixed in relation to wet rate or *tharam*—say 10 or 20 or 30 times the wet rate—and in accordance with local conditions. This will set right matters and there will be no room for criticism. Ryots will also pay this tax without grumbling if it is based on land revenue which they are paying now. Just like land revenue, the betterment fee should also be fixed by the Government. Let the Government appoint an officer to go into the question and fix the contribution in accordance with local conditions. Also, ryots owning five or six acres of land cannot afford to pay this tax. They must be exempted from it.

"Sir, you know the condition of the ryots in Rayalaseema. They have been neglected in the past especially in the matter of irrigation works. They must be allowed some time to recover from the economic depression from which they suffered for a long time. It is only after our popular Government took up office, some of the irrigation works were started and still they have not been completed. So the actual benefit has not been conferred on these people and now you want to tax them. It will certainly work hard on them.

"Further, there is no limit to the collection of this betterment contribution. Government are taking powers to collect it without any relation to the actual expenditure that they may incur on account of the execution of a particular project. The actual cost to the Government may be less than what they will collect. As an example let us take the case of a small bund in my district of Kurnool put across the river Paleru at a cost for Rs. 20,000, five hundred acres of land are irrigated from this source. Naturally, an acre of land which would have cost Rs. 1,000 may now cost Rs. 2,000. So, according to clause 4 of this Bill, Government will take one-half of the increased value of the land, that is, Rs. 500 as betterment contribution. This is very unfair. The Government have actually spent only Rs. 20,000 on the construction of this work. They should therefore not collect more than that sum. Government should collect only the actual amount that they spend on a particular project.

"Now, I come to clause 10. According to this clause, if the owner of a piece of land is not able to pay the betterment fee, he has to surrender a portion of his land to the Government. For instance, a ryot may be having only two or three acres of land and if he is asked to part with his small holding, he will find it very hard and would be put to great hardship and suffering. So, in view of all this, I once again request the Government to fix this tax at 10 or 20 or 30 times the wet rate."

*SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL :—“அக்கிராஜாதிபதி அவர்களே ! 'Betterment Levy Bill' ஐ நான் ஆதரிக்கிறேன். அப்படி ஆதரிக்கும்போது அதில் சிலவற்றையெல்லாம் Select Committee நன்றாகப் பரிசீலனை செய்து அதை திருத்த வேண்டுமென்பதற்காகவும் சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல விரும்புகின்றேன்.

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“முதலில் இது 1943-ம் வருஷத்திலிருந்து அமுலுக்கு வருமென்று போடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் 1943-ம் வருஷத்தில் காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்கார் நாட்டை அரசாட்சி பண்ணிற்று என்பதை நாம் அறிந்துகொள்ள வேண்டும். இந்தப் பாசன வசதிகளுக்காக இப்போது நாம் செலவு செய்வதைப்போல இதற்கு முன் இம்மாதிரி லக்ஷக் கணக்கிலும், கோடிக்கணக்கிலும் பணம் செலவுசெய்திருக்கிறார்களா என்பதை நாம் தெரிந்து கொள்ள வேண்டும். குறிப்பாக சென்ற இரண்டு வருஷ காலமாகத்தான், அதுவும் நம் காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்கார் பதவி ஏற்றபின் தான் பாசன விஷயங்களுக்காக கோடிக்கணக்கான ரூபாய்களை நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டங்களுக்காக செலவிட திட்டம் போட்டு செலவு செய்தும் வருகின்றார்கள். நம் நாட்டிலுள்ள தற் போதைய உணவு நெருக்கடியை முன்னிட்டும் நாம் இந்த நீர்ப்பாசனத் துறையில் பணத்தை பணமென்று பாராமல் அநேக கோடிக்கணக்கான ரூபாய்களைச் செலவு செய்து வருகிறோம். கோடிக்கணக்கான ரூபாய்களை மூலதனமாகப் போட்டு பெரிய பெரிய ரிசர்வாயர்களைக் கட்ட திட்டம் போட்டிருக்கிறோம். ஆகையால் 1943-ம் வருஷத்திலிருந்து எதற்காக இந்த வரியைப் போடவேண்டுமென்பது தான் எனக்குப் புலப்படவில்லை. 1943-ம் வருஷத்திலிருந்து போடுவதை ஏன் அதற்கு முன்னால் 1930-ம் வருஷத்திலிருந்தோ, அதற்கும் முன்னாலிருந்தோ போடக் கூடாது ? ஏன் அவர்களெல்லாம் மாத்திரம் லாபம் அடையவில்லையா என்று நாம் கேட்டுக்கொண்டே போகலாம். ஆகையால் அம்மாதிரி அந்தக் காலத்தில் ஏதோ ஒன்று செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதனால் அவர்கள் ஏராள லாபம் அடைந்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களும் ஏன் இப்போது இந்த புதிய வரிகளைக் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது என்று சொன்னால் அதில் ஏதாவது நியாயம் இருக்குமாவென்று நாம் யோசிக்கவேண்டும். ஆகையால் இப்போது Betterment வரி விதிக்கும்போது 1943-ம் வருஷத்திலிருந்து என்று இல்லாமல் காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்கார் எப்போது பதவிக்கு வந்ததோ அந்த வருஷத்திலிருந்து வரி போட்டால் மிகவும் நலமாக இருக்குமென்பதாக நான் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். 1943-ம் வருஷத்திற்குப் பின்னால் தான் அதிகமான பாசன வசதிகள் செய்து கொடுக்கப் பட்டிருக்கின்றன வென்றாலும் 1943-ம் வருஷத்திற்கு முன்பே Mettur Dam கட்டப் பட்டு அதனால் பெரும்பாலான நிலங்கள் நன்மை அடைய வில்லையா ? அதனால் அப்போதும் நன்மை அடைந்தவர்கள் ஏன் இப்போது புதிதாக வரி கொடுக்கக்கூடாது என்று விண்ண வாத்ததை எழவிடாமல் காங்கிரஸ் அரசாட்சி ஏற்பட்ட பின்னர் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்ட பாசன வசதிகளினால் நன்மை யடைந்த நிலச்சுவாந்தார்களிடமிருந்து மாத்திரம் இந்த Betterment வரியை வசூல் செய்யுமாறு ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இரண்டாவதாக நிலத்தின் மதிப்பீடு எவ்வளவு உயர்ந்திருக்கிறது [3.15 என்று கணக்கிட்டு அதன்படி தூற்றுக்கு 50 per centக்கு மேற்படாமல் p.m. அந்த நிலங்களுக்கு Betterment வரி விதிக்கப்படுமென்பதாக அதில் கண்டிருக்கிறது. இதில் முக்கியமாக நாம் என்ன கவனிக்க வேண்டுமென்றால் நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டங்கள் கொண்டு வந்ததின் காரணமாகத் தான் நிலங்களின் மதிப்பீடு இப்போது உயர்ந்திருக்கிறது என்று எண்ணவேண்டாம். ஏனென்றால் இப்போது தற்காலத்தில் எல்லா சாமான்களும் ஒன்றுக்கு மூன்று மடங்கு, நான்கு மடங்கு விலை உயர்ந்திருக்கிற மாதிரியாக நிலங்களின் விலையும் உயர்ந்து கொண்டே வருகிறது. ஏன் திணை திணை உயர்ந்து கொண்டு வருகிறதென்று தான் சொல்ல வேண்டும் ! எங்களுடைய ஜில்லாவில் மாத்திரம் நிலத்தின் விலை இரண்டு வருஷங்களுக்கு முன்பிருந்ததைவிட சென்ற வருஷம் அதிகமாயிருந்தது. சென்ற வருஷம் இருந்ததைவிட 6 மாதங்களுக்கு முன்பு இன்னும் அதிகமாகத் தான் இருந்தது. இப்போது 6 மாதங்களுக்கு முன்பு இருந்ததைப் போல இல்லை. அவைகள் நாளுக்கு நாள் உயர்ந்து கொண்டே போகின்றன. இரண்டு வருஷத்திற்கு முன்பு 2,000 ரூபாயாக இருந்த நிலத்தின் விலை இப்போது 4,000 ரூபாயாக உயர்ந்து விட்டது. புதிய project களை அந்தப் பிராந்தியத்தில் அமுலுக்கு கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதனால் தான் விலை உயர்ந்திருக்கிறது என்று எண்ண வேண்டாம். ஏதோ

[Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal] [29th August 1951]

புதிதாக பாசன வசதிகள் செய்து கொடுக்கப் பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதனால் விலை உயர்ந்திருக்கிறது என்று யாரும் எண்ணவேண்டாம். மற்ற சாமான்களின் விலை உயர்ந்து கொண்டே போகிற மாதிரியாக இந்த நிலத்தின் மதிப்பும் இப்போது உயர்ந்து கொண்டே போகிறது. ஆகவே எந்தெந்த நிலங்கள் விலை உயர்ந்திருக்கிறதோ அதற்கு எல்லாம் Betterment வரி போடாமல், எந்தெந்த இடங்களில் புதிய நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டங்களைக் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்களோ, எந்தெந்த இடங்களில் புதிய கால்வாய்களை வெட்டி, வடிகால்களை வெட்டி வசதி செய்து கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்களோ அங்கெல்லாம் இந்த வரியை போட்டால் போதுமானது. எந்தெந்த இடங்களிலுள்ள நிலங்களின் விலைகள் எல்லாம் எவ்வளவு உயர்ந்திருக்கிறது? அந்த நிலங்களின் விலை உயர்ந்ததற்கு காரணம் மற்ற சாமான்களின் விலை உயர்ந்ததைப் போல உயர்ந்திருக்கிறதா? இல்லாவிட்டால் புதிய நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டங்களை அமுலுக்கு கொண்டு வந்ததின் காரணமாக புஞ்சை நிலங்களைக் கூட நஞ்சை நிலமாக்கி அந்தப் பிராந்தியத்தில் விவசாயத்தில் நல்ல லாபம் வருகிறது என்ற காரணத்தினால் அந்த நிலங்களின் விலைகள் உயர்ந்திருக்கிறதா என்று நன்றாக ஆராய்ச்சி செய்து புதிய நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டங்களினால் தான் அந்த நிலங்களின் மதிப்பு உயர்ந்திருக்கிறது என்றால் அந்த நிலங்களுக்குமட்டும் Betterment வரி போட்டு வசூலித்துக் கொள்ளலாம். ஆகையால் புதிய நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டங்களினால் எந்த நிலங்களுக்கு லாபம் வருகிறது என்று ஆராய்ந்து பார்த்து அவைகளுக்கு Betterment வரி போடவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இன்னொரு விஷயம். எங்கள் ஜில்லாவைப் பொறுத்த வரையில் இப்போது மணிமுத்தார் project வேலை நடந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த மணிமுத்தார் project கொண்டு வந்ததின் முக்கியமான கருத்து என்னவென்றால் தாம்பிரவணி பாசனத்தில் இருக்கிற ஆயக்கட்டு களுக்கு போதுமானபடி இரண்டு போகத்திற்குச் சாகுபடி செய்ய ஜலம் கிடைக்காது கொஞ்சம் தட்டு ஏற்பட்டுக் கொண்டிருந்ததின் காரணமாக, அதுமாதிரி தண்ணீர் தட்டிப் போகின்ற சமயத்தில் கொஞ்சம் தண்ணீர் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்யவேண்டுமென்றுதான் இந்தப் புதிய project-ஐ கட்ட ஆரம்பித்திருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த ஆயக்கட்டுகளுக்கு தண்ணீர் விட்டது போக மீதமும் இருக்குமென்பதால் புதிய கால்வாய்கள் வெட்டி அந்தத் தண்ணீரை மற்ற தாலுக்காக்களுக்கும் கொண்டு போகலாமென்பதாக என்ஜினியர்கள் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி புதிதாக கால்வாய்கள் வெட்டிக்கொண்டு போகும்போது எந்தெந்த இடங்களிலுள்ள புஞ்சை நிலங்களை யெல்லாம் நஞ்சை நிலங்களாக மாற்றி சாகுபடி செய்ய ஆரம்பித்திருக்கிறார்கள் அந்தந்த நிலங்களுக்கு எல்லாம் Betterment வரி போட வேண்டியது அவசியம் தான். அதோடு ஏற்கெனவேயே அந்தக் கால்வாய்கள் போகிற இடங்களிலுள்ள ஒரு போக நிலங்களுக்கெல்லாம் இப்போது இரு போகமாகச் சாகுபடி செய்ய வேண்டிய தண்ணீரை சப்ளை செய்வதாக சர்க்கார் சொல்லவில்லை. இப்போது ஒரு போகமாக இருக்கிற நிலங்கள் இனியும் ஒரு போக நிலங்களாகவே தான் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று சர்க்கார் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். குளங்கள் மூலமாக பயிர் செய்து வருகிறவர்களுக்கும் இனியும் அந்த ஒரு போக பயிர் செய்யத் தான் குளங்கள் மூலம் ஜலம் சப்ளை செய்வதாகச் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். இப்போது தரிசாகக் கிடக்கிற புஞ்சை நிலங்களை நஞ்சை நிலங்களாக மாற்றக்கூடாது என்றும் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி இருக்கும்போது யார் யார் இப்போது Betterment வரி கொடுக்கவேண்டும்? ஏற்கெனவே இருக்கப்பட்ட ஆயக்கட்டுக்காரர்கள் கூட தாம்பிரவணி பாசன திட்டத்தினால் இப்போது Betterment வரி கொடுப்பது நியாயமா? அவர்களுக்கும் வரி போடப்படுமா, இல்லையா என்ற விஷயங்கள் எல்லா வற்றையும் இந்த ‘பில்’லில் நன்றாக வரையறுத்தாக வேண்டும். தாம்பிரவணி பாசனத்தால் ஏற்கெனவேயே நன்மை அடைந்து கொண்டிருக்கும் நிலங்களுக்கு இப்போது Betterment வரி போடவேண்டியிருக்காது என்று நான் எண்ணுகிறேன். புதியதாக கால்வாய்கள் வெட்டுகிறார்களே, அதனால் நன்மை அடையும் நிலங்களுக்குத் தான் இந்த வரி போடப்படுமென்பதாக அதை நிர்ணயிக்கவேண்டும்.

[Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal] [29th August 1951]

“எனக்கு முன் பேசிய நண்பர்கள் தெரிவித்துக் கொண்ட பிரகாரம் எந்தெந்த நிலத்தவர்கள் எவ்வளவு கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்பதாக Betterment வரியை அந்தந்த ஜில்லா கலெக்டர்கள் நிர்ணயிப்பார்கள் என்று விட்டுவிடுவது சரியல்ல. ஏனென்றால் இந்த வரி விதித்து அதை வசூலிக்கும் விஷயத்தில் ஜில்லா கலெக்டர்களிடமிருந்து ஒவ்வொரு ஊர் கர்னம் வரையிலும் அதிக கவனம் செலுத்தி வேலை செய்ய வேண்டியவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். எவ்வளவு வரி கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்பதை கலெக்டர்கள் அல்லது ஸ்பெஷல் ஆபீசர்கள் அந்த நிலத்தின் விளைச்சல் எவ்வளவு, அதனால் உண்மையாக எவ்வளவு லாபம் அந்த நிலத்தின் சொந்தகாரருக்கு கிடைக்கிறது, எவ்வளவு செலவு செய்யவேண்டியிருக்கிறது, என்றெல்லாம் ஆராய்ந்து அதற்குத் தக்கவாறு வரி விதித்து வசூலிக்கவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அதற்குத் தக்கவாறு select committee இதைப் பரிசீலனை செய்து முடிவு செய்ய வேண்டுமென்பதாகவும் நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். இன்னொன்று. நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டங்கள் என்று சொல்லுகிற காலத்தில் நீர் தேக்கங்கள், கிணறுகள், குளங்கள், கால்வாய்கள் எல்லாம் வருகிறது. அதில் இப்போது ‘அதிக உணவு உற்பத்தி திட்டப்’ பிரகாரம் அநேக குளங்கள் பெரிதாக வெட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. சில இடங்களில் குளங்களுடைய விலைநீரணத்தை அதிகப் படுத்தியிருக்கிறார்கள். அதற்கு எல்லாம் லக்ஷக்கணக்கான ரூபாய்கள்தான் செலவு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதனால் சில மிராசதார்கள் கொஞ்சம் அதிகமான ஆயக்கட்டுகளை சாகுபடிக்குக் கொண்டு வரலாமென்று நினைத்து புஞ்சைப் பிரதேசத்தை எல்லாம் நஞ்சையாக மாற்றி இருக்கலாம். அப்படிச் செய்தவர்களுக்கு சில சமயம் ஏமாற்றம் ஏற்படலாம்.

“என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவில் தாம்பிரவணி project ஏற்படுத்தப் போவதால் ஸ்ரீவைகுண்டம் என்ற ஊரில் வசிப்பவர்கள் சுமார் மூவாயிரம் ஏக்கர் புஞ்சை நிலங்களை யெல்லாம் நஞ்சையாக மாற்றினார்கள். ஆனால் அந்த மூவாயிரம் ஏக்கருக்கு மேற்பட்ட நிலங்களுக்கு தண்ணீர் சப்ளை சில வருஷங்களாக மழை யில்லாததால் தட்டு ஏற்பட்டு விளைச்சலும் குறைவாகியிருக்கிறது. இம்மாதிரி காலா காலத்தில் மழை ஏற்படாத போனால் என்ன புதிய project களைக் கொண்டு வந்தாலும் ஜலம் போதுமானதாகக் கிடைக்காமல் பயிர்கள் வீணாகி விவசாயிகளுக்கு நஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டு விடுகிறது. ஆகையால் புதிய project களைக் கொண்டு வந்த இடங்களுக்கு எல்லாம் Betterment வரி விதிக்கக் கூடாது என்று நான் சொல்லுகிறேன். புதிய project கொண்டு வந்த பிரதேசங்களில் அதனால் ஏற்பட்ட பலனை நன்றாக ஒரு வருஷத்திற்கு இரண்டு வருஷமாகப் பார்த்துக் கொண்டு அதனால் உண்மையான லாபம் விவசாயிகளுக்கு வருகிறதென்றால்தான் Betterment வரி விதிக்க வேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். அதோடு 50 per cent Betterment வரி போடுவதென்பதை மாற்றி கவனித்து 25 per centக்குமேல் வரி விதிக்கக் கூடாது என்பதாகவும் முடிவு செய்யவேண்டுமாய் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என் பேச்சை முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* Sri B. VENKATANARAYANA REDDI :—“அடியே, ஸ்ரீ, நீ, உ, விலை உயர்ந்திருக்கிறது என்று யாரும் எண்ணவேண்டாம். மற்ற சாமான்களின் விலை உயர்ந்து கொண்டே போகிறது. ஆகவே எந்தெந்த நிலங்கள் விலை உயர்ந்திருக்கிறதோ அதற்கு எல்லாம் Betterment வரி போடாமல், எந்தெந்த இடங்களில் புதிய நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டங்களைக் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்களோ, எந்தெந்த இடங்களில் புதிய கால்வாய்களை வெட்டி, வடிகால்களை வெட்டி வசதி செய்து கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்களோ அங்கெல்லாம் இந்த வரியை போட்டால் போதுமானது. எந்தெந்த இடங்களிலுள்ள நிலங்களின் விலைகள் எல்லாம் எவ்வளவு உயர்ந்திருக்கிறது? அந்த நிலங்களின் விலை உயர்ந்ததற்கு காரணம் மற்ற சாமான்களின் விலை உயர்ந்ததைப் போல உயர்ந்திருக்கிறதா? இல்லாவிட்டால் புதிய நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டங்களை அமுலுக்கு கொண்டு வந்ததின் காரணமாக புஞ்சை நிலங்களைக் கூட நஞ்சை நிலமாக்கி அந்தப் பிராந்தியத்தில் விவசாயத்தில் நல்ல லாபம் வருகிறது என்ற காரணத்தினால் அந்த நிலங்களின் விலைகள் உயர்ந்திருக்கிறதா என்று நன்றாக ஆராய்ச்சி செய்து புதிய நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டங்களினால் தான் அந்த நிலங்களின் மதிப்பு உயர்ந்திருக்கிறது என்றால் அந்த நிலங்களுக்குமட்டும் Betterment வரி போட்டு வசூலித்துக் கொள்ளலாம். ஆகையால் புதிய நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டங்களினால் எந்த நிலங்களுக்கு லாபம் வருகிறது என்று ஆராய்ந்து பார்த்து அவைகளுக்கு Betterment வரி போடவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

[Sri B. Vekatanarayana Reddi] [29th August 1951]

పరిస్థితి గమనించినట్లయితే, నేడు ఈ బిల్లును ఎదిరించడానికి వీలులేదు. కాని ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఈ బిల్లులో సూచించినట్లు పెరిగిన విలువలో (increased value) సగము భాగము అనగా 50% Betterment Fees క్రింద రైతులునుండి వసూలు చేస్తే, రైతులు అంత భాగమును భరించగల స్థితిలో ఇప్పుడు ఉన్నారా అని ప్రభుత్వము వారు పరిశీలించవలసియ్యవచ్చును. వాస్తవముగా, వారు అంత భాగమును భరించగల స్థితిలో లేరు గనుక, పెరిగిన విలువలో నూటికి, యాభై వంతు గాకుండా, రైతుల యొక్క ఆర్థిక స్థితి గమనించి Betterment Fees నిర్ణయించవలసియ్యుండును. ఈ విషయమున చలువురు సభ్యులు, 50% కాకుండా, 25% నిర్ణయించవలసిన సూచించినారు. నేను కూడా వారితో ఏకీభవిస్తూ పెట్టుబడి విలువలో 25% భాగము కాని, పెరిగిన విలువలో 25% గాని యింపదు యేది తగిన ఆ మొత్తమును Betterment Fees గా నిర్ణయించవలసిన సూచనను కోరుచున్నాను. నేను ఈ సందర్భమున మనవిచేయునది ఏమనగా కొత్తగా ఒక ప్రాజెక్టు నిర్మించినప్పుడు, తద్వారా అనేక వేల ఎకరాల భూమి వంటకు రావడానికి అవకాశముండును. ఆ విధముగా వండిన భూముల రాష్ట్రములో ఉన్నటువంటి ప్రజలందరికీ కూడా వంతుకము చేయడానికి అవకాశము వచ్చును. మరియు అహార కొరత తీర్చుటకై రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వము కోట్లకొలది భనమును వెచ్చించి, ఇతర ప్రదేశములనుండి అహారమును తెప్పించుకొను అవసరముండదు. అటులనే కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వముకూడా కోట్లకొలది భనమును వెచ్చించి ఇతర ప్రదేశములనుండి భాగ్యమును తెప్పించవలసిన అవసరముండదు. కనుక, దీనివలన నాలుగు పార్టీలు లాభము పొందుదురు. వంటలు ఎక్కువగా వండించుకోగలిగిన రైతులు ఒక పార్టీ, అన్నము లేకుండా అలమటిస్తున్నవారికి ఇందు వల్ల అహార కొరత తీరినందుకు రాష్ట్రములోని ప్రజలు రెండవ పార్టీ, విదేశములనుండి అహారమును తెప్పించుకొనుటచే అగు ఖర్చు తొలగింపబడిన రాష్ట్ర, కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వములు, మూడవ, నాల్గవ పార్టీలుగా యుండును. కనుక ఈ నాలుగు పార్టీలు ఈ ప్రాజెక్టులపై గాని మరే ఇతర ఇరిగేషన్ స్కీములపై గాని ఆయ్యే ఖర్చును సమానముగా భరించవలసిగలగలదని నేను మనవి చేయుచున్నాను. అందుచేత, రైతు యొక్క ఆర్థిక స్థితి గమనించి అయినా గాని, లేదా, ఈ ఖర్చును పెట్టిన నలుగురు క్రమముగా భరించవలసియ్యుండును గనుక రైతు భాగమునకు పెట్టుబడి విలువలో నూటికి యాభై వంతున కాకుండా, 25 వ వంతుకు మించకుండా Betterment Fees నిర్ణయించవలసిన మనవి చేయుచున్నాను.

“కంఠ విషయము నేను మనవిచేయునదేమనగా, రైతులయొక్క ప్రస్తుత స్థితిలో, ఒకవేళ ప్రభుత్వమువారు నేడు ఈ Betterment Fees లేకుండానే, స్వయంగా ఈ ఖర్చులను భరించే అవకాశముంటే, ప్రతివాడు వాని శంకోక వడు తాడు. కాని ప్రభుత్వము అటువంటి స్థితిలో లేదు గనుక, రైతులు తమకు తగినటు వంటి వసతులు తీర్చుకోవడానికి కష్టములు తొలగించు కార్యములూ ప్రభుత్వమునకు కొంతవరకైవా డబ్బును వెచ్చించి తోడ్పడుటకు మాత్రము సిద్ధముగా ఉంటారని మనవి చేయుచున్నాను. ప్రభుత్వమువారి ఉద్దేశము కూడ Betterment Fees తప్పక వేయాలని మాత్రమే యుండదు. అయితే వారి ఆర్థిక లాటునుబట్టి ఇది వేయవలసివచ్చి నది. అయితే, ఈ Betterment Fees ఎప్పుటినుండి రైతులవద్ద వసూలుచేయకలయు నను విషయములో ఏ ప్రాజెక్టునుద్దేశించి ఏయే ప్రదేశములలో Betterment Fees వసూలు చేయవలసియ్యుండునో, ఆ ప్రాజెక్టు పూర్తి అయి, ఆ ప్రదేశములకు నీటి పారు డా అయి, దాని ఫలితములను పొందిన, అనగా దానివలన పంట పండిన, మరు సంవ త్సరము నుండి ఈ మొత్తమును రైతుల వద్దనుండి వసూలు చేసినట్లయితే, రైతుకూడ ఆ

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విధంగా మొత్తమును వెచ్చించి యథార్థంగా ప్రభుత్వమునకు తోడ్పడుతాడు, తోడ్పడగలడు. న్యాయంగాను సవ్యంగాను యుండును. ప్రభుత్వమువారుగూడ రైతుకు నిజంగా తోడ్పడిన వారు అవుతారు. కనుక ఇప్పుడు ఈ బిల్లులో ఉన్నట్లు పెంటున, ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఉద్దేశించినప్పటినుండి కాకుండా, విషయం చేస్తారో, ఆ పని పూర్తి అయి, రైతు, దాని ఫలితము పొందిన మరు సంవత్సరమునుండి Betterment Fees వసూలు చేసేటట్లు ఏర్పాటుచేయవలయునని మనవిచేయుచున్నాను.

“ఇంకొక విషయమేమనగా, ఈ పెట్టుబడి విలువ యొక్క అభివృద్ధి ఎంత అనే విషయములో, విదో కోర్టులో తప్ప, దీనిని సరిగా నిర్ణయముచేయజాలరని, ఇప్పుడు బిల్లులో సూచించినట్లు, కలెక్టరు, రివిన్యూ బోర్డు, గవర్నమెంటు ఈ విషయములో తీర్మానించడము ముఖ్యముకాదని చలువురు సభ్యులు చెప్పినారు. కాని, ఈ విధముగా ప్రభుత్వాధికారులను శంకించినప్పుడు, కోర్టులయందుగూడా విశ్వాసము లేక పోవచ్చును. ఇప్పుడు కోర్టులుగూడ విరామములేక ఎక్కువ పని గలిగియున్నవి. వైగా, ఈ విషయము ఒక వ్యక్తికి సంబంధించినటువంటిది కాదు. పబ్లిక్ గాములకు, ఎంతోమందికి సంబంధించినటువంటి విషయము. కనుక ఈ విషయమున, కలెక్టరునుగాని, రివిన్యూ బోర్డును గాని, ప్రజలకు చాడ్యతవహించినటువంటి ప్రభుత్వమునుగాని శంకించవలసినటువంటి అవసరము కించిత్తు కూడలేదు.

“ఈ బిల్లును ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఇప్పటికప్పుడో తీసుకొని రావలసియుండెడిది. ఇప్పటికైనా, ఈ బిల్లును తీసుకొని వచ్చినందుకు ప్రభుత్వమువారికి అభినందించు చున్నాను. ఇందులో Betterment Fees ఒకటి నిర్ధారణ చేశారు. అది సవ్యంగానే యున్నది. దానికి అభ్యంతరములేదు. కాని, ఈ Betterment Fees రైతులనుండి వసూలు చేసేటప్పుడు, Inclusion Fees అని మరొకటి వసూలు చేయడము అన్యవ సరము. రైతుల యొక్క పరిస్థితి తెలిసినటువంటి గౌ. రివిన్యూ మంత్రిగారు ఈ విషయమును గమనించవలసిన నేను ప్రార్థిస్తున్నాను. ఈ సందర్భము నేను మనవిచేయు నదేమనగా ఒక ప్రాజెక్టునుండి దాని వ్వారా మెరక భూములకు నీటి పారుదలకాగల అవకాశమేర్పడినపుడు, ఓక్కొక్క గ్రామమునుంచి, రైతులు ఓక్కొక్కరు వంద, రెండువందలు, మూడువందలు కూడ ఖర్చు భరించి, ఆ మెరకభూములకు నీటిపారుదలకు గాను తగినటువంటి వసతులు ఏర్పరచుకొనుటకు తాము స్వయముగా చేసుకొనవలసిన ఖర్చులుకూడా ఉండును. ఈ ఖర్చులకు తోడు, మరొక Betterment Fees, ఇంకొక Inclusion Fees ఇవన్నీ కూడా రైతు భరించుట సవ్యముకాదు. కనుక, ఈ బిల్లును Select Committee లో పరిశీలించేటప్పుడు, Inclusion Fees మానివేయడము, పెట్టుబడి అభివృద్ధి విలువలో 50% కాకుండా, 25% గా Betterment Fees నిర్ధారణ చేయడము దీనిని వసూలు చేయడము ప్రభుత్వము ఇప్పుడు ఉద్దేశించినప్పటి నుండి కాకుండా, ఆయా పని పూర్తి అయి, దాని ఫలితమును పొందిన మరు సంవ త్సరమునుండి వసూలు చేయడమును వీటిని ముఖ్యముగా గమనించి అట్లు నిర్ధారణచేసి నట్లయితే రైతు విమూతము దీనిని శంకించకుండా ప్రభుత్వమునకు తోడ్పడునని మనవి చేయుచూ ఇంతంతో విరమించుకొంటున్నాను.”

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill wholeheartedly, because I feel that in these days of scarcity of food, irrigation schemes have to be doubled. For that we must have funds. Of course, in general, the taxation policy is wrong. It has to be thoroughly changed. But as regards this betterment fee, I am glad that it only affects such people as are benefited

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by these schemes and not the general public. I had taken interest in one or two projects and had approached Government for sanctioning them and they have sanctioned them. I know that the ryots are willing to contribute what little they can, because they want to have the benefit of those irrigation schemes, and so I welcome this Bill. My hon. Friend, Mr. Venkatanarayana Reddi, who is a ryot himself, has given very valuable suggestions for improving the Bill. I hope they will be taken into consideration by the Select Committee.

"Then, Sir, I am opposed to the clause relating to the surrender of land. If supposing a ryot is unable to pay his contribution fee, he will have to surrender, under this Bill, a small portion of his land. I know Government will give him every facility for payment by easy instalments. In spite of all this, supposing that a ryot is not able to pay his contribution due in a lump sum, I submit, the amount should be spread over four or five years. Again, Sir, I have to submit, it will be criminal on the part of Government to collect these contributions from uneconomic holdings, where the ryot holds only one or two acres, by which he cannot feed himself and his children. In such cases, he must be exempt from the payment of contribution. With regard to the question whether the contribution should be fifty per cent or less, as was submitted by Mr. Venkatanarayana Reddi, 25 per cent should be fixed as the limit that the Government could levy. Of course, there are very many categories of people who are benefited by these schemes.

"This morning I heard the speech of the Raja of Chettinad. He was saying that the levy of betterment fee was considered also by the previous Governments and that they were against it. I submit, they were all zamindari Governments and they had not the courage to face the public. But now, we have a popular Government and we will be able to face the public, and so we are having this Bill.

"Then, another thing I would like to say. I would request Government that after passing this Bill they should not be satisfied with completing a few schemes. They must double up their programme and introduce many minor irrigation schemes which are all pending with the Government under the Grow More Food Scheme, and other categories. Then only they will be justified in bringing forward this Betterment Fee Bill. Of course, I agree that the general tendency among the Members of this House, as well as the public outside, whenever a taxation measure is brought forward, is to raise the cry, 'Oh, this Government is levying taxes, taxes and taxes.' But, Sir, how can a Government be run unless somebody pays taxes and how can any one get any amenity unless one pays for it? Sir, I have been all along saying that we should have a system of progressive taxation, so that we may get more money and confer more benefits on the people. One of the Members of this House was saying that there was an element of compulsion in this Bill. I wish to ask, Sir, who will condescend to pay unless he is compelled? Will persuasion

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succeed in making a man pay taxes? Suppose the Hon. Minister, Mr. Gopala Reddi owns five hundred acres of land. I say this only as an illustration. Suppose he is asked to pay betterment fee voluntarily. Will he pay? Will any persuasion succeed? No. So, unless a rule is framed in that behalf, nobody will pay. As I said, I am taking this as an illustration. There are people who have come forward in the past with contributions towards the cost of irrigation schemes. So, I request Government after passing this Bill not to sleep over schemes but take them up for construction and execute them departmentally or through contractors. As I submitted earlier, besides taking up large irrigation schemes, they should side by side take up minor irrigation schemes and finish them as early as possible, so that our begging for food from foreign countries may cease. With these words I support the Bill."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :— Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion of the Hon. Minister for Revenue for referring this important Bill to a Joint Select Committee. Sir, I would not have risen to speak on this occasion were it not for the fact that I have to make a few observations regarding the district of Nilgiris in so far as this Bill affects it. Sir, in the list of works which are to be brought under betterment contribution, I see that all works for the protection of lands from flood or from erosion are included. Sir, in the district of Nilgiris, much damage by soil erosion has taken place in the recent past and so Government have thought it necessary to ban assignment of land in the district of Nilgiris. Sir, I feel a Bill of this nature is highly necessary to protect land from erosion and also the effects of flood in my district. But at the same time, I feel, the House should know who were responsible for this erosion during the last 10 years. It is not the people, but the reckless land assignment policy of the Government that is responsible for it; it is the Revenue and the Forest departments that are responsible for this soil erosion by their ruthless assignment of lands. Now, Sir, under this Bill, Government propose to levy betterment fee on these people who will be benefited by works to be undertaken by Government to protect lands from flood and erosion. It is only very recently the Hon. Ministers during their visit to the Nilgiris, saw for themselves how much of soil has been eroded and with what consequence. So I would plead, in the Select Committee stage, that special attention must be given to the district of Nilgiris in regard to the question whether a betterment fee can be levied for the period from 1943 or only later. So I request that the application of clause 3 may be carefully considered.

"Then, Sir, it is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that this betterment fee will be levied on all lands which are benefited or capable of being benefited by any irrigation or drainage work which Government may construct. I would request the Joint Select Committee to draw up for the information of the people, a list of the lands so far benefited by irrigation schemes

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so that the people may know that they would have to pay betterment fee even from 1943. Sir, these are the observations I wish to make and I hope the Hon. Minister for Revenue, who is well conversant with matters pertaining to my district, will consider my suggestions favourably."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to repeat what I have said yesterday. But I wish to draw the attention of the House to one fact. The whole discussion on this Bill has proceeded, particularly the arguments advanced by the supporters of the Government, on the assumption that Government are in need of finance, and that therefore they have launched this Bill. But I would draw the attention of the House to paragraph 1 in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill. This Government is a rich Government, or at any rate, it has got sufficient credit and borrowing power, and so it feels it is not right to request persons to make contribution just because it has given irrigation facilities. Here, I want hon. Members who spoke on that assumption to refer to paragraph 1 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill. It runs thus :—

" The Government have been spending very large sums of money on the construction, extension and improvement of irrigation and drainage works with a view to secure for the owners of lands in the areas served by such works an assured supply of water to their lands. On account of the irrigation facilities thus afforded by these Government projects, the value of the lands have either increased or are likely to increase. It is but fair and reasonable that the Government should be enabled . . .

" I request the House to mark those words—

to recover from the owners of the lands benefited a share of this increase by way of contribution."

So, Sir, Government have come forward with a new theory of Public Finance, namely that Government are entitled to share in the increased value of the property. This is a new feature. The Constitution provides for taxation. The Constitution fixes the powers of the State Government in respect of all matters covered by the Seventh Schedule. But the Constitution does not authorise this Government to have a share in the increased value of the property. So this is a new item altogether. Government, as I said, have come forward with this Bill not for the sake of money but they want to propound a new theory of Public Finance, namely, that they are entitled to a share in the increased value of the property. I submit they are not entitled to it. On the other hand, if they look into the history of land revenue administration papers of this Government for the last 200 years those papers will disclose to them that it has always been conceded by the Government of those days, that it is the ryot who is entitled to the increased value of the land and that Government are entitled only to a share of produce from the land and never the increased value of the land. It is altogether a novel theory that is now propounded by Government. I ask all friends who are supporting this Bill, again to mark the correct position

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which is : Government are entitled to a share in the produce only and not in the land or value of the land itself. That is my submission.

" Then, Sir, there is another feature to which the attention of the House has to be drawn. If you refer to clause 3, it will be seen that it is not merely the land which is benefited which has to pay this betterment fee. In fact it is not called fee; it is called contribution. Government call it betterment contribution. Under the Constitution they cannot levy contribution. So this levying of compulsory contribution is totally against the spirit of the Constitution. It is altogether a different thing where people say that they agree to bear the cost of an irrigation scheme and on that score the cost of the scheme is recovered from them, as they reap the benefits of the scheme. But Government cannot compel everybody to pay, and the language of clause 3, vests in them such power, and it gives scope for great hardship. It will happen in this way. Supposing a great project is contemplated. In order to make the scheme attractive, engineers will give a blue wash to the area to be commanded by the scheme, and immediately, under clause 3 of the Bill the District Collector will declare that the entire area comprised within that blue wash, must pay compulsory contribution. But as a matter of fact, till the completion of the work, it is not possible to say whether all that area comprised in that blue wash will be benefited or not. That is why some Government party members suggested that there would be difficulties in the actual working of the clause, and it is why they suggested that no betterment fee contribution should be levied until the ryot actually received any benefit from the irrigation scheme and that the Government should not take powers to levy betterment contribution immediately the scheme was completed.

" The next point to which I wish to draw attention is the ouster of the jurisdiction of the courts of law. As some Members have already submitted, this is a malignant kind of provision. The Government have been accustomed, during the last three or four years, to bring before this House Bills which cannot be interpreted by any law court. Strangely, they are called laws and strangely, this House has acquiesced in them. Surely, anything that is not subject to judicial interpretation is not a law. Let the Government satisfy themselves whether they are right. The people will tell them very soon that they are not right.

" I want to draw the attention of the Government to the provision for recovering arrears of betterment contribution and inclusion fee as if they were arrears of land revenue. Under the Madras Revenue Recovery Act, the land can be sold to recover the arrear of revenue. If a land is sold for recovering the arrears under this Act, the rights of innocent parties who might have advanced loans on the security of the land will be adversely affected. The Government should preserve the rights of innocent third parties.

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"Mention has already been made about the inclusion fee. Such a fee was sought to be levied only in the Godavari and Krishna deltas. The Government want now to extend it to the entire State and let them do it. But inclusion fee and betterment contribution do not go together; one must be exclusive of the other. Great reformers of land revenue have suggested several taxes which are exclusive of one another. This Government have somehow thought it fit to impose them all together: the betterment contribution and the inclusion fee both at the same time on the poor and innocent agriculturists of this State. The bull is strong. But if it is overloaded, it will collapse. If the agriculturists are overloaded with taxes, the very purpose of the Government will be defeated. This also is an aspect which the Government must take into consideration.

Who are the persons affected was the question often asked. The total number of pattadars in this State is 7,189,000. Of these, the number of pattadars paying an annual land revenue of fifty rupees and less is 69.9 lakhs or nearly 70 lakhs. Assuming that the average assessment is Rs. 5, each of these 70 lakhs of pattadars owns an extent below ten acres. It is better for the Government to know how this Bill will affect them. If the price of an acre of land was Rs. 400 before the execution of a project and the Collector says that its price after the execution of the project is Rs. 2,000, the increased value is Rs. 1,600. On ten acres, the owner will have to pay a betterment contribution of Rs. 8,000. I ask whether the Government think that a landlord owning ten acres of land or less can at any time pay Rs. 8,000 without mortgaging or selling away his property. The Government knew the difficulty and the Secretariat which drafted the Bill at their bidding also knew it. Therefore they invented the clever device that if the assessee could not pay in cash, he could surrender land of equivalent value. Out of ten acres, he will have to surrender three acres. This is the betterment that the Government are providing to 69 lakhs of pattadars out of a total of 71 lakhs. Let the Government and those members who wholeheartedly supported the Bill—only one friend from the Congress Party gave his wholehearted support to the Bill including every comma and semi-colon in it—realize the seriousness of what they are doing.

"It was said in the course of the discussion that this levy would be only in the case of projects. I want to draw attention to the fact that according to the Bill, an 'irrigation work' includes canals, channels, tanks, wells, reservoirs, ponds, spring ponds, madugus, embankments, lakes and other natural collection of water, rivers and natural streams. Even a minor improvement to a channel or an embankment or even a well will attract the operation of this Act. The Government have spent nearly eight crores of rupees since 1948 for subsidising wells. There is not a single acre of land that will not be affected; every uneconomic holding is bound to be affected. I want the Government to consider all these facts before passing this legislation. I repeat my request.

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that the Government should drop this Bill and bring forward a less objectionable and more acceptable Bill to improve the resources of this State."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, after hearing the last speaker, it looks as though the Government are out to ruin the agriculturist, they have lost all interest in his welfare, and they have brought forward this measure, which he opposed so vehemently, to destroy the people of this State particularly the poorer classes."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"That is not what I said."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"That is the impression that is left on my mind by his statement that out of 71 lakhs, 69 lakhs of pattadars will have to pay Rs. 8,000 each on an average which they could not afford. He drew an imaginary picture, came to imaginary conclusions and dreaded imaginary dangers. Let me assure the House that we are as much interested in the welfare and progress of the people of this State as the hon. Member who drew an imaginary picture of the terrible damage that is going to be caused by the adoption of this measure. Nothing of that sort is going to happen. (Interruption by Sri T. Viswanatham.) I know his capacity to quote and misquote."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I never misquoted. I have quoted the figures."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister is not yielding."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Knowing my friend as I do, I am not yielding. Let us face facts. The argument was advanced by hon. Members on all sides of the House that this measure was inopportune. This measure is brought forward to enable the Government to collect a reasonable sum of money from people who have benefited at the expense of public funds. When a certain amount is spent on the execution of a project in a particular area to improve the lot of the people there, the Government propose to recover from the beneficiaries either in lump sum or in instalments, a sum not more than fifty per cent of the increase in value of their property due to the execution of the project. There has been a little misunderstanding. Some people think that fifty per cent of the cost of the project is going to be recovered. The provision is for the recovery of not more than fifty per cent of the unearned increment. A similar Act has been passed in Bombay in 1950 and it is in force there. The Punjab, Mysore and Bengal Governments have similar provisions. We are not doing anything extraordinary or new. It was said that the people were asked to bear a burden which they were not having before. I agree. This Bill is going to a Joint Select Committee which will thoroughly examine it. I am prepared to examine the suggestions that have been, and will be, made. I want to see that the measure emerges from the Joint Select Committee as an equitable measure.

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"Very many speakers said that the Government had no right to collect betterment contribution or inclusion fee and asked why the people should be asked to pay for the Government doing their duty. As a Welfare State, this Government have a duty to improve the lot of the people. To perform that duty, they must find the necessary finance. The next question, that arises is whether this is a proper method of raising the money. It is proper to tax those who can bear the burden. There is nothing wrong in the Government asking the people who have benefited from public funds, to share their prosperity with the State to enable the Government to improve the lot of the other people.

* p.m. "Sir, we owe a duty to the people, and we are asked to perform our duty to the people. How are we to perform our duty, without the people who are going to be benefited contributing anything towards the Welfare State? This is an argument which I cannot understand. I am sure hon. Members, when they think about this coolly, would agree with me that the citizen has as much duty towards the Welfare State as the Welfare State has towards the citizen. No Welfare State can function, without the help—not merely oral but actual financial help—of the citizens who constitute that State.

"Then, Sir, certain provisions were very bitterly criticised, particularly those provisions giving powers to the Collectors. Some hon. Members said that Collectors were already burdened with so many other duties, and that they might not have the time to attend to this work also. Hon. Members stated that there were only about 30 Collectors. My hon. Friend from Guntur stated that these Collectors were not the proper people, that they were going to be influenced by somebody or other, and that there were 17 influential people in his district who were going to influence the Collector. I think, Sir, to say the least, that he has been very unfair to those who have been trying to do their duty by the people of this State. It may be that there are a few people who have tried, and will try to influence people. Perhaps this is the nature of some people. Because a few people are going to influence or are likely to influence others, to conclude that Collectors will be influenced, I say, is wrong. That has been the experience of perhaps some hon. Members. But that has not been my experience. I refute that allegation. It is very unfair to the officers to presume like that. I would welcome any hon. Member to let me know such cases. Let us not throw mud on people who have no chance of defending themselves on the floor of this House. Let us be fair to them. Let us play the game. When we give powers to the Collector to go into these matters, it does not necessarily mean that the Collector will not have the power to delegate his particular duties to proper persons. When it is a matter of assessing the increased value, proper steps would be taken, and in the Joint Select Committee, we shall consider any suggestions that hon. Members may bring forward to improve on the methods by which assessments of increment can be made. I keep an open mind in the matter.

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I welcome suggestions from hon. Members. After all every hon. Member is interested in seeing that there is fair assessment. Any suggestions in this connection for a fair settlement of the increase, due to certain improvements effected, would be welcomed by the Government.

"Another very interesting and important suggestion that has been made was that only the increase in value on account of the irrigation projects, should be taken into account, and not the increase on account of other factors like inflationary trends, etc. I agree this is unexceptionable. We should certainly examine how we can secure by our legislation, and the rules to be made under the Act, that the increase to be taken into account must have a direct relation to the benefit that has been conferred by the Government, and that the increase due to extraneous considerations such as inflationary trends is not taken into account. I agree that this is a very important point. We will certainly consider this.

"Certain other suggestions were made about the basis of determination. I consider that it is unnecessary at this stage to go into these details, because every suggestion that has been made would be considered. There is ample opportunity for the Joint Select Committee to consider all the suggestions about the basis of determination.

"Sir, certain remarks were made about the ouster of the jurisdiction of courts. Some hon. Members stated that Government should not have such large powers of revision, and that these powers should vest in a judicial body. Some other hon. Members stated that they could trust the executive officers, and these powers might be vested in them. The criticism has often been levelled that the Government have been seeking, in several of their measures, to oust the jurisdiction of courts. This has become a common criticism. Hon. Members know that if such measures were passed previously, it was because the whole House accepted that provision. We have not had any complaints so far that because of this particular provision very great hardship had been caused to the people. On the other hand this provision has tended to expedite disposal of several matters. We all know this. Particularly my hon. Friend Mr. Viswanatham is aware, knowing courts and the procedure of the law courts, how things are likely to be delayed. In the interest of the State and the people themselves sometimes the Government and the Legislature have accepted the provision for ousting the jurisdiction of courts.

"Sir, let me thank hon. Members for the various suggestions made by them. Some of them, I am sure, are very useful. At the same time, certain remarks, which were not quite germane to the discussion, were made, about the number of taxation measures brought forward by this Government, and about the food situation. All sorts of matters not quite germane to the discussion were mentioned, but I did not want to interrupt at that time. I thought

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Hon. Members must have an opportunity somehow or other to express what they had in mind though they might not be quite relevant.

"Sir, I move that the motion I made be adopted. I have handed over to the Hon. Speaker the list of Members of the Select Committee."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

(1) That the concurrence of the Legislative Council be obtained in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 21 members to consider the Madras Irrigation (Betterment contribution and Inclusion Fees) Bill, 1951 (14 Members from the Assembly and 7 Members from the Council); and

(2) the following Members of the Assembly be nominated as Members of the Joint Select Committee:—

The Hon. Sri H. Sitarama Reddi.

"M. Bhaktavatsalam.

"Sri K. T. Kosahram.

"A. Kaleswara Rao.

"P. Govindan Nair.

"M. Bapinatha.

"V. I. Muniswami Pillay.

"M. P. Damodaran.

"G. Venkata Reddi.

"M. A. Easwaran.

"T. Viswanathan.

"Janab Mohammed Rafeuddin Ahmed Ansari.

"M. A. Muhammad Ibrahim.

"Mahboob Ali Baig."

I am going to put this to the vote of the House."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, even at the fag-end of the life of this House, the Hon. the Leader of the House has not been able to conceive of a fairly decent number from the Opposition to serve on the Joint Select Committee. The difference between the three groups is very small—a difference of 2 members on each side. On account of that difference, the Hon. the Leader of the House is prepared to give only one seat to my group. Either he thinks that we are not helping him or that he is more afraid of our interfering with his programme than he is afraid of any other group interfering with his programme and his work. Perhaps we are too considerate and so friendly with him that we are not given more than one seat. I believe out of 14 seats 6 should have been given to the Opposition."

MR. SPEAKER:—"These are all matters in regard to which the hon. Member can have a talk with the Leader of the House."

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JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Any number of times, this has been brought to his notice, Sir, and he has been promising to consider. Even to-day he promised to consider our claims at the time the next select committee is appointed. It is not that I want more representation, but I am fighting for the rights of my group and I am sure that, when the Leader of the House is in a mood to consider things, he would consider this matter also."

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, it is not as if we are afraid of somebody and not afraid of somebody else and that somebody is friendly with us or that somebody else is inimical to us. Out of 14, we have given 5 to the Opposition. The hon. Member wants 6 against 8. In proportion to the number of Members of the Government and of the Opposition, I do not think it is unreasonable if 5 out of 14 are given. This is more than 33-1/3rd per cent, while the strength of the Opposition is about 25 per cent. So, while we certainly try to accommodate as many Members of the Opposition as possible, we have done nothing unreasonable. The hon. Member may be satisfied with this, and he need not think that because of his friendship with us, he is neglected. Friendship is not neglected, and it is certainly valued."

The motion was put and carried.

(2) THE OPIUM (MADRAS AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Opium (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1951, and move—

'That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.'

"Sir, this is a non-controversial Bill. It is only doubling the punishment for contravening the Opium Act of 1878. Incidentally we are taking powers to enable our Prohibition Officers also to investigate offences under the Opium Act. This is a non-controversial Bill, and I hope it will be passed without much discussion."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

'That the Opium (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'"

The motion was carried.

The Preamble and clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 were put and carried.

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

'That the Opium (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'"

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

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(3) THE MADRAS PRESERVATION OF PRIVATE FORESTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill^a, 1951, and move—

'That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.'

"Section 1 (3) of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949 (Madras Act XXVII of 1949) (which reproduced the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1946), provided that that Act should remain in force up to and inclusive of the 2nd December 1950. Its life was subsequently extended for another year by Madras Act XXX of 1950. When this was done, it was anticipated that a Bill which was then under preparation for the amendment of the Madras Forest Act, 1882, and which contained *inter alia* the essential provisions of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949, would be passed into law by August or September of this year at the latest. But mainly on account of the pressure of work connected with other Bills, the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill could be finalised only recently. Although the Bill is now ready, yet, as it is a fairly big measure, it is not likely to be passed into law soon. It has therefore become necessary to extend the life of the principal Act for a further period."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Motion moved—

'That the Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'"

4.15 P.M. * SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been supplied with one copy of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated August 14, 1951. There are 6 Bills printed in it. The second Bill is what the Hon. Minister has moved now. The fifth Bill again is the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1951. That is the main Bill which he has referred to now. In that particular Bill there is a provision that the provisions of this Bill have been incorporated in it. When we are going to discuss that Bill, I want to know what need there is for passing this measure."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Let the Hon. Minister reply to it."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I anticipate his reply, Sir. What he would say is this. It is already said there, at the time the Department wrote the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it was not quite clear to them whether they would bring in the other Bill or not soon enough but mainly on account of the pressure of work connected with the other Bills, the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill could be finalised only recently. Now, the present Act has got life up to December. There is four months' time. Therefore, why should we pass this Bill when we are going to pass another Bill including the provisions of the present Bill? It seems to be, if I may say so, a waste of time, because

^a Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, Extraordinary dated 14th August 1951

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there is four months' time and surely the other Bill would become an Act before the expiry of that period. That is my view. But if the Hon. Minister so feels, let him go into the Private Forests."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Sir, I know the interest the hon. Member has got in several private forests and their preservation." (Laughter.)

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I am not interfering with his private forests."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Apart from that, the other Bill is there but, as I explained, it is likely to take some time and it is in the interests of the welfare of the State that the life of this Act should be extended by way of abundant caution. We cannot be sure that it is going to be passed by that time. So, we cannot have a sort of vacuum in between the passing of the new Bill and the lapsing of the present Act.

Sir, the hon. Member does not dispute the need for the preservation of private forests, whether they are mine or his. There should be no difference of opinion about it. So, I am sure the hon. Members will support the motion that I have made."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

'That the Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'"

The motion was carried.

The Preamble and clauses 1 and 2 were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Sir, I move—

'That the Bill be passed into law.'"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

'That the Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'"

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

(4) THE MADRAS DISTRICT BOARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras District Boards (Amendment) Bill^a, 1951, and move—

'That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.'

"Sir, the Government have considered that as a matter of policy, reservation of seats in local bodies for minority communities should be restricted to members of the Scheduled Castes and Anglo-Indians in accordance with the spirit of the new Constitution. There is at present provision in the Madras District Boards Act, 1920, for reserving seats not only for members of Scheduled

^a Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, Extraordinary dated 14th August 1951.

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Castes and Anglo-Indians but also for Muslims, Indian Christians, Europeans and women. It is, therefore, proposed to omit from the Madras District Boards Act, 1920, the provisions relating to reservation of seats for Muslims, Indian Christians and Europeans. The total number of reserved seats for members of the Scheduled Castes, Anglo-Indians and women will be limited to one-fourth of the strength fixed for the district board under section 10 (1) of the Madras District Boards Act, 1920. These changes will, however, be given effect to in respect of existing district boards only from the date of the next ordinary elections thereto, or if any such district board is dissolved before that date, from the date of the first elections to the board after such dissolution. In order to achieve this object in view, legislation is necessary. Therefore, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

That the Madras District Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has moved the Bill for removing the reservation of seats for minorities in district boards. He referred to the Constitution and said that the spirit of the Constitution demanded that all reservations and separate representation should be done away with in the matter of elections to local bodies. My first reason for opposing this motion is that the Constitution does not refer specifically to local bodies so far as representation of minorities is concerned. Therefore, the Hon. Minister advisedly referred only to the spirit of the Constitution. The Hon. Minister knows and his colleagues in the Congress Party know that they are to-day experiencing great difficulty in order to accommodate the minorities even at the next general elections so far as their representation in the Legislatures is concerned. When such is the situation, I do not know why they want to be in a hurry to implement what is called the spirit of the Constitution in the matter of elections to local bodies. I would counsel them to wait and see how the elections to the Legislatures take place and to what extent minorities get representation on the basis of joint electorates. The Leaders of the Congress Party themselves, however anxious they might be, find it very difficult under present conditions to see that at least a decent number of minorities are elected to the Legislatures in the coming elections. Knowing as they do that, I do not know why they come forward with a legislation like this at the present juncture.

Then there is another reason why local bodies should be treated differently from the Legislatures. I am conceding for a moment that reservation may not be necessary for a political body like the Legislature. The same reasoning should not be brought in in the case of local bodies. Local bodies have functions different from those that are performed by a Legislature. Local bodies have to deal with matters affecting the day-to-day life in a local area, in a smaller area, wherein there are different interests and

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various functions. Therefore, functional representation and minority representation should be there so that all the people in that area may get on together in a happy way. Instead of that, victims as the hon. Gentlemen are to their own slogans and their very high principles of democracy, in a country like ours they want to extend to local bodies also that lofty spirit of democracy which is found in the Constitution so far as Legislatures are concerned. I know all are anxious to see the day when all these differences of communities and castes will be obliterated from the body politic in India but unfortunately that day has not yet come. We have to make adjustments here and there and if we are not in a position to do so with a view to develop all the people into a strong nation, ultimately we will see that we have made a terrible mistake, and we will be causing bitterness in the minds of people who go without representation in local bodies. I plead with the Hon. Minister to take this matter back to the Cabinet so that they may reconsider it. I do not think that this is a very welcome measure. It is rather a hasty step that the Government are taking. They know that it is too early in the day to touch the local bodies so far as this particular principle goes.

"Unfortunately it has fallen to the lot of the Hon. Sri Chandramouli to come forward with a measure like this. He is a gentleman who has a large heart and who would accommodate everybody and minorities in particular wherever possible. I do not know whether it will be possible for him with the consent of the Hon. Gentlemen on the Treasury Benches to agree to postpone the consideration of this Bill so that they may consider the matter calmly and quietly particularly in view of the coming general elections and see that this measure is not precipitated."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not see what necessity there is for a measure of this type to be brought forward in this House at the fag-end of its life. The Hon. Minister stated that he was trying to implement the spirit of the Constitution. So far as the Constitution is concerned, there is nothing mandatory in it which compels the Hon. Minister to bring forward such legislation, therefore he put forward the plea that he wanted to conform to the spirit of the Constitution. I ask: 'Are the Government acting in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution in regard to many other matters?' What about Education? The Hon. the Minister in charge of Education gave us the other day a very gloomy picture about the future of education in the State, despite the fact that according to the spirit of the Constitution the State has to endeavour its utmost to see that within the course of the next ten years elementary education is made free and compulsory for every school-going child. There are various other matters in regard to which the spirit of the Constitution is not being implemented by those at the helm of affairs. Why then should the Government divert their attention to this matter, which is after all not very urgent. Is it because they have no other work to do? Have they no other Bills to bring forward (Laughter) that they have come with the present Bill which could well wait until the general elections were over?

[Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin] [29th August 1951]

"The Government to-day are in a sort of dilemma as to how to accommodate the minorities in the next general elections. They are themselves feeling that in the future elections the minorities may not be able to stand on their own and that they do need some protection. When the Government are in such a frame of mind, is it not their duty to defer a measure like this and take it up after the next elections are over?"

4-30 P.M. "Sir, as has been rightly pointed out by Janab Abdul Hameed Khan, there is a difference between the functions of the Legislature and those of district boards and municipalities. District boards and municipalities are not political bodies; they are civic bodies and their functions are different. The same ideas that obtain in regard to the Legislatures should not be imported into local bodies. I find that special representation for women has been provided for in this Bill whereas the special representation for the minority communities, like Muslims, Christians, etc., have been removed. The idea of doing away with reservation should pertain only to political bodies like the Legislature and should not be applied to civic bodies like the district boards, etc., as well. These bodies should serve as a training ground for all sections of the people and due opportunities should be afforded to those who are not likely to get represented in the ordinary course. I feel that the Bill is unnecessary. Therefore my earnest request to the Hon. Minister is that he should not waste his own precious time—I know that he is overwhelmed with other important work—and also that of this House by proceeding with this measure, which can well afford to wait until the general elections are over."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"Mr. Speaker, I stand before you to-day to support the motion of the Hon. Minister for Local Administration to amend the Madras District Boards Act, 1920. I feel grateful to the Government as they have followed what has been said in the Constitution. As a Member of the Constituent Assembly, and as one who served on the Minorities Committee presided over by the late lamented leader Sardar Patel, I moved an amendment for the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and it was accepted. (Hear, hear.) Now, Sir, in conformity with that, the Hon. Minister has come forward to reserve seats for the Scheduled Castes. I welcome it. Even there, when discussions took place, from the speeches of the hon. Members, it was understood that such reservation was meant not only for the Legislatures, but also with regard to the local bodies in the States. In this very House, when the Village Panchayat Bill came up for discussion, we found that the Government had inserted a clause for reservation of seats to Scheduled Castes. The whole House gave its consent to it. There, they have prescribed a time-limit of ten years. But in this Bill, I find that no mention about ten years has been made. If it is left alone I welcome it. If however, the Government want to act in conformity with the Constitution of India and introduce a ten-year limit, let them bring forward a further Bill later on. Whatever it may be, I find that reservation has been made for the Scheduled Castes and I welcome it. If some do not prefer to have this reservation, it is for them to decide. But

29th August 1951] [Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillay]

in the Statement of Objects and Reasons with regard to this Bill, it is stated that the total number of reserved seats for members of the three communities, viz., Scheduled Castes, Anglo-Indians and Women will be limited to one-fourth of the strength fixed for the district board. From a perusal of the statistics available in this State, one will find that not a single member of the Harijan community has ever occupied the position of President of a district board. That only shows the smallness of the number of Harijans in the district boards. I request the Hon. Minister that, while making the rules for reservation, the population of the Scheduled Castes in each district may be taken into account and the quantum of seats to be allotted to them may be fixed. With these observations, I welcome this Bill."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting this Bill. I wish to ask for some clarification from the Hon. Minister. I perfectly agree that we should follow the spirit of the Constitution and should cease to think in terms of communities if we want to become a secular State. But, I fail to understand why there should be reservation for women. The previous speaker referred to them as a community. I was really taken aback when he referred to women as a community. There is no such thing as a community of women. In district boards, whose functions are only to maintain proper communications, promotion of education and the like there is very little room for any special representation for any community. There are no Muslim roads as against Hindu roads. There can be no Muslim education as against Hindu education. Such reservation of seats is understandable in the case of Legislatures which have something to do with the entire community at large. The argument must have been the other way. Janab Abdul Hameed Khan is to-day an Alderman in the Madras Corporation . . . (Interruption.) All right, though he may not be an Alderman to-day, he was an Alderman and Councillor of the Corporation once and I was also a Councillor once. What I want to say is this. Janab Hameed Khan was a Councillor in the Corporation not because he wears a Turkey cap and professes Muslim religion and I was a Corporation Councillor not because I did not wear a shirt and profess Hindu religion. We were selected for Councillorship because we were known for our earnestness in pursuing Corporation matters. Let me pay a compliment to Janab Hameed Khan and share a part of it myself. Janab Hameed Khan had much more time than I and so he continued there. But I had to give up my Councillorship the moment I found that I had absolutely no time to devote to civic matters. (Interruption.) There will be a time when Janab Salam will discover things for himself. I only want to impress that there is no necessity for having special representation for communities and castes. We must develop this feeling from the local boards. If a panchayat is to be divided like this and cut into pieces and each one feels that he belongs to a particular community and so on, no business can be carried on in that particular panchayat. It will be a glorious day for India when we build up

[Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin] [29th August 1951]

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from the bottom and educate the common man. I do not call him a Hindu, Muslim or Christian or European. If we want to educate the common man and help him to get out of the narrow frame of mind, then we must do the maximum in the district boards and it is there we must do away with all reservation for minorities. The minorities will get more than their due when they learn to get assimilated with the majority. To-day minorities are unreal. There cannot be communal minorities in a secular State. There can always be minorities on policy. It may be a composite minority, a minority consisting of all communities and yet standing for a totally different policy. In the Legislatures, I welcome such an opposition and such a minority, and not a minority of a kind which insists and seeks to enter through reservations, and which wants deliberately to be in conflict with the majority opinion in the country and which wishes to distinguish itself by raising the name of the community to which it belongs. Sir, I do not propose to go into the question of reservation for Scheduled Castes, because it has already been accepted deliberately and there is no going back on it.

"In respect of women, I want the Hon. Sri Chandramouli to think over again. The Government can get enough women even without providing any special reservation for them. I want to know why reservation has been provided for them. There is practically no necessity for it. Cannot they get represented in the local boards without any special reservation? There are very earnest workers amongst them. If they stand for election, they are bound to be returned, not because they formed a community as suggested by the previous speaker, but because they know how to get into district boards and municipalities. Health centres, primary education and things like that, are the peculiar privilege and duty of women. Again, environmental hygiene and sanitation is another field, which is so hopelessly bad and the women of this country have a great part to play to improve the conditions in this field as well. I cannot understand why a party like the Congress should come forward with a proposal for giving reservation to women. I fail to understand the reason. It does not stand to logic, and it does not stand to reason and political good sense. I want the Hon. Minister to clarify the position. I want to tell the Hon. Minister that the women do not want such reservation. They do not want these little concessions. They know how to get into local boards, municipalities and Legislature. I know they can very well adorn positions of responsibility everywhere by their own effort."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—"On a point of information, Sir, the hon. Member says that women themselves do not want reservation. May I know on what authority he is saying that?"

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—"Sir, I claim to speak for everybody, because I am here not representing the men alone in my constituency, but a constituency consisting of men, women,

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adults, children and everybody. I represent them fully. I also represent a number of Muslims. When I come here, I think I represent not only Hindus, but every Muslim in Triplicane. I have striven to do my best for them and still I am doing my best for them. When any case comes before me, if I am convinced that there is a *prima facie* case for investigation, then I do not leave any Minister to go about his business undisturbed till the injustice is thoroughly remedied. That is the creed which should guide the legislators as a rule. One should not seek election to district boards merely for taking up positions as mere figure heads. There is very little room for manoeuvres in a Legislative Assembly. Are we to encourage manoeuvres in district boards? Everybody should strive for the well being of the State which is to be a Welfare State as against a security State that has been developing all over Europe and threatening Asia also to some extent. I should say that our Pandit Jawaharlalji stands unique in that respect, who is for a Welfare State.

"Sir, ours is a Welfare State. One should feel that he is an Indian first and foremost. Suppose I feel in my house that my wife is in need of enough food for my family the next day and that my children are in need of better clothing and I were to sleep inside the house after locking all the doors lest my little possessions be lost, I say that it would be much better for me to leave the house wide open than continue with this 'fear complex'. I say, Sir, that it is only this 'fear complex' that is present in the minds of most of us, which retards our progress. We must take courage and see that that 'fear complex' is driven out root and branch. Then our economy, our politics, our search for raw materials and the like . . ."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—"I hope the hon. Member will please finish his speech."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—"I am glad that the hon. Member is asking me to finish. I shall finish of course within a few minutes. I am sure that at the end he has realised his folly and that the enemy within him has been driven out."

MR. SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member has made amends now."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—"Indeed Sir, I have got no enemy. I am only referring to the enemy that was within him previously and which I am glad to note, has disappeared now. I myself, Sir, feel at certain times that sort of enemy within me. I am trying my every bit to eradicate that sort of consciousness within me. At every time I will work for the elimination of that evil. If even the Hon. Ministers also try to eliminate that evil *within themselves*, our country would become a truly 'Secular State.'"

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—"Sir, after listening to the most spirited speech of the hon. gentleman, Sri N. S. Varadachari, how I wish that our Assembly possesses at least half a

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dozen N. S. Varadacharis! How I wish that our State should contain men of Sri N. S. Varadachari's type with such broad outlook, with such power of eloquence, with such a complete non-communal outlook on life, who always think in terms of the common people and who, last but not least, are the true citizens of our Secular State!

"Sir, one can say anything on the public platform or in the Legislature. But what we should see is how things take shape in practical politics. Sir, I, for one, feel that it would have been much better for Janab Abdul Hameed Khan and for our Begum Saheba to have simply said 'we also support the measure'.

"Sir, we are going to embark on a very great experiment. I mean the coming elections. For the first time in the history of our country, we are going to have Adult Franchise. We had some reforms during the time of the 'Minto-Morley reforms.' Now we are going to have a new experience.

"Sir, there is not going to be any reservation for the minorities except the Harijans or the Scheduled Castes, in the matter of election to district boards, if the Bill is passed. The whole object of this Bill is the abolition of the existing reservation to local bodies for Muslims, Christians and the Europeans with effect from the date of the next ordinary elections to the local bodies. Speaking for myself—and I think I shall be voicing the opinions of members of my community—I do not think that the few, who will lose their reservations due to this measure will, truly following the spirit of the Constitution, cringe for the small 'Meherbani' of the Government of Madras for the retention of the existing reservations.

"Sir, it is true that the reservation of seats in the Legislatures for the members of the Harijan community is quite necessary, since they have not risen to the level of the other forward communities, and their interests would suffer otherwise. But with regard to the other communities, it is a different thing. Of course, it is true that some Members have some misgivings in view of the proposed new measure. I only regret it. I sincerely wish that people should cease to think in terms of communities hereafter. We are all Indians first and foremost. That sort of feeling should come. But that day is yet to come! Well, Sir, when the Hon. Minister says that he is bringing in this measure truly following 'the spirit of the Constitution', there is nothing left for me but to support it whole-heartedly.

"With one more observation I want to conclude my speech. Sir, the Government of Madras have been following a peculiar policy in so far as their adherence to the Constitution goes. Recently we had the Constitution Amendment Act. Because the Supreme Court gave a verdict not suited to the policy followed by this Government, and opposed the discrimination that was shown by this Government between communities, Brahmans, Non-Brahmans, Christians, or the like in so far as admissions to professional colleges were concerned, and since the Government were anxious that the interests of the educationally backward

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classes should not suffer in the matter of education, the Constitution was amended in the desired manner. Whenever the Government think it would be beneficial for them they apply the Constitution; otherwise they put it in 'cold storage'."

JANAB MAHBŪB ALI BAIG:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to deal with the question of reservation for Muslims and Christians. Sir, I have a doubt whether the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Classes is in order. I think this legislation reserving seats in the local bodies for the Scheduled Classes offends the Constitution. I wish this matter is considered in detail. The Articles in the Constitution that deal with the concessions to the Scheduled Classes and the Tribal Classes do not refer to the election to local bodies. Articles 15 and 46 refer only to the advancement of these communities socially and economically and the Constitution does not contemplate the election to the local bodies. The question of election to the local bodies is mentioned in one of the items in the State List. Whereas the Constitution lays down that the elections to the Parliament and the elections to the State Assemblies should take place in a certain manner and in the elections certain seats may be reserved, for certain time, to the Christians and also to the Scheduled Classes and Tribal classes, the Constitution does not deal with the question of elections to the local bodies or with the reservations thereon. Therefore, if the Government are making a discrimination in the matter of elections to the local bodies, they are offending Article 14 of the Constitution. The Constitution does not deal with the structure or method of election to the local bodies. It is purely a matter for the State Legislature. Article 14 of the Constitution says:

'The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India'.

When they are speaking of reservation of seats in respect of elections to local bodies, I say they are infringing the provisions laid down under Article 14. I can understand this reservation if a definite provision has been laid down in the Constitution in respect of local bodies.

"Article 15, clause (4) of the Constitution says:

'Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward classes of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services of the State.'

"Perhaps it might be contended that for this new measure which is proposed by the Government, the above Article 15, clause (4) could be applied. But that is quite different. The question of appointments to specified posts is a separate question by itself."

MR. SPEAKER:—"If the hon. Member has no objection, he can continue his speech to-morrow."

JANAB MAHBŪB ALI BAIG:—"Yes, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I now adjourn the House till 11 o'clock to-morrow."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 o'clock on Thursday, the 30th August 1951.

[30th August 1951]

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" Is it not a fact that the wages fixed by the Government in respect of the three employments mentioned by the Hon. the Minister just now are not in any way higher than what prevail now? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I would like to draw the hon. Member's attention to the title of the Act—Minimum Wages Act. Wages have been fixed after due enquiry. Various representations were made by trade organizations and it is only after going into all details that the wages were fixed. As I have already said, these are but minimum wages."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—" May I know whether the Government have sent any report to the Central Government urging them to expedite the fixation of minimum wages for agricultural labourers? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" There is no need to make any representation because we have to implement the Act. Certain enquiries started by the Government are being conducted now and we have not yet had the final report. The enquiries are expected to conclude shortly. As soon as we get the report, the question will be taken up for implementation."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether this minimum wage is binding upon both the parties, viz., workers on the one hand and the factory owners on the other? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member can get the information if he goes through the Act."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I want to know the moral or legal sanctions behind such fixation. Wages vary from place to place and I want to know whether the Government intend to standardize the wages."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" That is exactly the purpose with which we have fixed minimum wages. Nobody can employ a person unless he is prepared to pay the minimum wage but it is open to the parties concerned to negotiate and get an increase. Nobody should pay less than the minimum wages prescribed."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government will find it possible to lay before the House a copy of the enquiry report that will be sent to the Government of India? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" No, Sir. As I have already said, that report is a report that should be submitted to the Government of India. It is an enquiry that is being conducted on behalf of the Central Government and the report has to be sent to them only. After we get the report and their views thereon, we will examine the question."

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SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government contemplate fixing minimum wages in respect of at least a portion of the agricultural labour like Paleru and allow them to take their wages in kind instead of in cash? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I would like to inform the hon. Member that at the recent conference of the I.L.O. to which I led a delegation, the workers' representatives objected to payment of wages in kind."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" May I know the minimum wages recommended by the Government in respect of the three employments mentioned by the Hon. the Minister just now? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I do not have all the details here. But I have no objection to furnish the information if the hon. Member writes to me."

JANAB M. V. HYDROSS :—" May I know whether the fixation of minimum wages has anything to do with the cost of living index which varies from place to place? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The cost of living has certainly something to do with wage fixation."

Grant of scholarships for study in Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

* 52 Q.—SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state the number and amount of scholarships granted to students of this State studying in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—

	Number of scholarships.	Monthly value of the scholarship. Rs.
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.	20	56
Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay.	2	61

Rayalaseema Economic Development Board.

* 53 Q.—SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government propose to make the Rayalaseema Economic Development Board a statutory one?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The answer is in the negative."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH :—" In view of the fact that the Economic Development Board is doing excellent work and is greatly

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helping the economic betterment of the people of Rayalaseema, may I request the Government to make it a statutory body and implement all its recommendations?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is making a request to the Government. The question cannot be allowed."

Industrial Engineering Workshops.

* 54 Q.—SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa): Will the Hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Industrial Engineering Workshops maintained by the Government;

(b) the cost of maintenance; and

(c) the works undertaken by these workshops?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—" (a) There is only one Industrial Engineering Workshop in the State maintained by the Government.

" (b) & (c) The information is furnished in the statement placed on the table of the House."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know where this Industrial Engineering Workshop is located?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"At Washermanpet."

Service conditions of village officers of Banganapalle.

* 55 Q.—SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the pay of the village officers, talaiyaris and kattubadis, in Banganapalle estate has been raised to the level of similar officers in other parts of this State, and if not, the reason for the same?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"The Government have issued orders that the villages of the merged State of Banganapalle should be regrouped and the village establishments should be paid pay and allowances in the same scales as are applicable to village officers in the surrounding ryotwari villages in the Kurnool district. The above orders have not been given effect to as there are many claimants to the posts in the regrouped villages and elaborate enquiries have to be made for each post."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:—"In view of the fact that the salaries of other employees of the State of Banganapalle have been brought to the same level as those of the employees of this State Government, will the Hon. the Minister, pending a decision on regrouping, enhance the scales of pay of village officers with retrospective effect?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"The principle of equal pay has been accepted. As I have said, there has

* Printed as Appendix I on page 504 infra.

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been certain difficulties in deciding the claims of the persons to be in charge of the regrouped villages. Of course, the question of giving retrospective effect will be taken up when the other question is finally settled."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether the Government will apply the same rule in respect of villages taken over from the Nizam's territory such as Lingagiri, etc.?"

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

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:—"May I tell the Hon. the Minister that regrouping of villages is quite different from revising the scales of pay of officers? Will the Government consider the question of giving these employees the same scales of pay as are given to others?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I shall consider the suggestion."

Woollen industry in the State.

* 56 Q.—SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa): Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any woollen industry in this State maintained by the Government;

(b) if so, its location;

(c) what woollen goods have been manufactured each year for the last three financial years, yearwar; and

(d) the value of goods manufactured?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—" (a) No, Sir.

" (b) to (d) Does not arise."

Bridge across the Chettuwayi river.

* 57 Q.—SRI P. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have decided to construct a bridge over the Chettuwayi river at the fourth mile of Kootungal-Ala road in Ponnani taluk, Malabar;

(b) if so, when the work will be commenced; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the excess of collections in the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies of Ponnani taluk, amounting to about six lakhs of rupees, has been handed over to the Government as a public contribution towards this work?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" (a) No decision has been reached. The matter is under consideration.

" (b) Does not arise.

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"(c) The excess collections have been credited to Government, and will be made available for the construction of the bridge when necessary."

JANAB M. V. HYDROSS :—" May I know what is meant by excess collections? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" It was agreed that the district boards should contribute half and the Government should contribute the other half for the construction of the bridge. Later, when the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies found some surplus money, they agreed to place those funds on behalf of the district boards at the disposal of the Government for constructing the bridge."

SRI P. NATESAN :—" May I know how it was possible for the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies to make excess collections to the tune of nearly six lakhs of rupees? Was it because they had unusual profits on sales? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" If the hon. Member wants details, he may put a separate question."

JANAB M. V. HYDROSS :—" My question has not been answered. I want to know what is meant by 'excess collection' by the co-operative societies."

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" When shares were allotted to members, there was a certain number left unallotted. Subsequently, they were allotted and certain 'excess collections' were made by way of sale of shares. The members who subscribed agreed that the funds might be utilized for the construction of a bridge. The Government have agreed to the proposal."

JANAB M. V. HYDROSS :—" Does not this 'excess collection' represent the amount that was collected from card-holders in excess of what should actually have been collected from them? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

JANAB N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR :—" Will the Hon. the Minister assure himself that this is not blackmarket money and if it is, that this tainted money will not be utilized for public service? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" It is not black-market money."

Craft allowance to the teachers in the Fisheries schools.

* 58 Q.—JANAB MAHIN SCHAMNAD: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether all the teachers in the Fisheries schools get the craft allowance under G.O. No. 2392, Education, dated 22nd July 1949 and if not, why not;

(b) whether the above Government Order will be placed on the table of the House; and

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(c) whether the teachers in the Fisheries schools get this allowance for all the crafts?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" (a) No. The Government Order is not applicable to the teachers in the Fisheries schools under the control of the Fisheries Department."

"(b) A copy* of the Government Order as subsequently amended has been placed on the table of the House."

"(c) No. As the education imparted in the Fisheries schools has a special bias towards fisheries subjects, only such crafts as relate to Fisheries are taken into consideration. The teachers in the Fisheries schools who have undergone training in Fisheries Training Institute, Kozhikode, the Fisheries Technological Institute, Tuticorin, and in the Government Coir School, Beypore, were getting a craft allowance of Rs. 5 per month. Subsequently the scales of pay of the teachers in the Fisheries schools were revised and the craft allowance was merged in the pay."

JANAB MAHIN SCHAMNAD :—" May I know, Sir, whether 11-15 all the teachers in the Fisheries schools who have been trained in a.m. crafts will not get this craft allowance? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" This craft allowance has been abolished and this has been included in the regular pay now."

Contribution to the Harijan Sevak Sanghs by the local bodies.

* 59 Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have issued any circular to any or all the local bodies in this State to contribute to the Harijan Sevak Sanghs in their respective areas; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" On the request made by the President, Harijan Sevak Sangh Andhra Provincial Board, Madras, Government have permitted the local boards and municipal councils which are sound financially, in the districts of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Nellore, Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool and Chittoor to contribute from their funds in aid of the funds of the Harijan Sevak Sangh Andhra Provincial Board, Madras, to the extent specified below :—

Local body.	Maximum amount of contribution allowed.
(1)	(2)
	Rs.
District boards	500
Municipalities	100
Major panchayat boards	50
Minor panchayat boards	25

* Printed as Appendix II on pages 505-508 infra.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 30th August 1951.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Non-supply of mill cloth to rural areas of Anantapur.

* 50 Q.—SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any reports to the effect that two persons were trampled down during a scramble for mill cloth before a shop in Anantapur a few days before the Telugu New Year's day (i.e.), on 7th April 1951; and

(b) whether it is a fact that mill cloth had not been released to rural areas of Anantapur for the last three months from that date?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—“(a) No, Sir.

“(b) No, Sir. During the period of three months ending 7th April 1951, sufficient mill cloth on the same scale as was released to town shops, was released to all shops in the rural area.”

Implementation of the Minimum Wages Act.

* 51 Q.—SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state with reference to answer to clause (b) of question No. 603 answered on 11th December 1950 whether the Government have implemented the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, in this State and if so, when?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“Minimum wages have already been fixed in respect of three employments covered by the Act, viz., (1) employment in any rice mill, flour mill or dhall mill, and (2) employment in any oil mill, with effect from 1st January 1951, and (3) employment in respect of tobacco (including beedi making) manufactory with effect from 1st March 1951. The Government of India have since extended the time-limit for fixing minimum wages for employment specified in Part I of the Schedule of the Act to 31st March 1952. It is hoped to fix minimum wages for other employments also before the target date.”

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"No requests for such contributions to Harijan Sevak Sanghs in the other districts have been received."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—" May I know, Sir, whether other District Boards which were not circularized can also contribute to the Harijan Sevak Sangh? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" If a request comes from other district boards, the Government will consider it. But I may tell the hon. Member that recently the Madurai District Board passed a resolution to contribute three thousand rupees to the District Harijan Sevak Sangh and the Government have accepted the proposal."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" As a member of the District Board and Municipality, may I tell the Hon. Minister that any order from the Government to contribute to this Association or that Association embarrasses us? In view of that, will the Government see that no recommendation whatever regarding contributions is sent to local bodies and the choice is given to the local bodies to contribute or not? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" We are not recommending anything. It is the hon. Members that are making recommendations to the Government and we are only permitting them to do it."

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

II.—MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received the following messages from His Excellency the Governor of Madras :—

"(1) In pursuance of Article 207, Clause (1), read with Article 199, Clause (1), sub-clause (a) of the Constitution of India, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby give my recommendation to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras Kyotwari (Additional Assessments) Bill, 1951.

"(2) In pursuance of Article 207, Clause (1), of the Constitution of India, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby give my recommendation to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Bill, 1952, and in pursuance of clause (3) of the said Article, I also recommend to that Assembly the consideration of the said Bill."

III.—NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

A. Bills.

(1) THE MADRAS CULTIVATING TENANTS' PROTECTION BILL, 1951

MR. SPEAKER :—" Before the hon. Member moves his Bill, I would like to read the relevant rule No. 76 pertaining to such motions—

"Rule 76 reads as follows :—

"76 (1) If a motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed, the Speaker, after permitting if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the member who moves and from a member who opposes the motion, may, without further debate, put the question thereon.

"(2) If such a motion is agreed to, the Bill shall be deemed to have been introduced."

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SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" I beg leave of this House to move—
That leave be granted to introduce the Madras Cultivating Tenants' Protection Bill, 1951."

SRI P. VISWANATHAM :—" I second the motion."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

That leave be granted to introduce the Madras Cultivating Tenants' Protection Bill, 1951."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I wish to oppose it."

MR. SPEAKER :—" In that case, I will allow the hon. Mover Sri K. R. Karanth to speak on the Bill and then the Hon. Minister."

* SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" In view of the importance of the Bill, it is for you, Sir, to consider whether other Members can also speak. Of course, it is entirely within the province of the Hon. Speaker."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have referred to the hon. Member to the relevant rule. The hon. Member may make a brief statement."

SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" May I take, Sir, 15 minutes? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" Why, 15 minutes? The hon. Member may take ten minutes."

* SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" I am quite willing to adjust to whatever time-limit is fixed."

"Sir, I am rather surprised, that the Hon. Gentleman, the Revenue Minister, should, at the outset, oppose this measure. It pains me greatly, not because it comes from me and it should be opposed, but because, I take it that the opposition is on merits. Some time ago, I brought a measure at the request of certain friends in the Bellary district for amending the Cattle Trespass Act. That was also opposed but a promise was made that the Government would bring in a measure. Till this day, we have not seen that Bill."

"Sir, in 1936, in the Congress Election Manifesto, one of the important planks was to give security of tenure and fair rents to the entire tenant classes in the whole of this country. On that, all of us, most of us including myself, went to the polls. In the State of Bombay, the Government were pleased to pass a very substantial measure in the year 1938 and that is working there. In the year 1948 they modified and amended it. As you are aware, Sir, in 1939, by reason of the war, the Congress went out of office. Then, in 1946, again we went to the polls. The Congress Party, in their Election Manifesto, went a step further than what they promised in 1936 and said that not only would security of tenure be granted and fair rents be fixed, but all intermediaries between

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the cultivator and the State would be removed on payment of equitable compensation. Sir, after the election, towards the end of April 1946, the Congress Government in this State took office. Very soon thereafter, within a month, I took charge of the Revenue portfolio and initiated, of course, on behalf of the Government, an enquiry into the conditions of the tenants in this State, with a view to carry out the promise made in 1936 and reiterated in 1946. Sri Raghavendra Rao, a District Collector, was in charge of the enquiry. With him, I travelled to many of the districts in order that he might also understand the objectives of the Government.

"That Ministry before its resignation in March 1947, prepared a Bill on the same lines as the Bill now before this House. There was only one difference. At that time, it was said that it was enough if two years' rents were paid. You are aware how in the other Act which was passed, namely the Tenants and Ryots Protection Act, 1946 if tenants paid rents for two years, stay of eviction was granted. Then, in the subsequent Zamindari legislation, it was all wiped off. Now, Sir, in the present Bill, I have not gone to the length of wiping out anybody's arrears. The substance of this Bill is that all cultivators in this State, wherever they may be, and those who are in possession of house-sites in villages, shall be granted protection from eviction provided they regularly pay rent. Until a proper and a major legislation is passed in this House they shall be entitled to be there. You are aware, Sir, how in towns, there is the Rent Control Act. But in the villages, once the Government announce major reforms, there is the tendency on the part of landlords to evict tenants and this is going on everywhere. Under the guise of cultivation by themselves, the landlords are evicting the tenants on a large scale. This state of affairs has been in existence for the last five years. Before we left office, I signed a Bill to give protection to the tenants on these lines. That was, Sir, in March 1947.

"On the 22nd April 1947, Sri Kala Venkata Rao, my successor-in-office obtained a mandate from the Congress party to introduce legislation on this subject at the earliest possible time. In August 1947, Sri Raghavendra Rao's report was received. There has been ample time from the year 1936. We are now in the year 1951. Fifteen years have gone by. Yet, are we to understand that the Congress Government in Madras are not willing to make up their minds and go further, and allow even a small measure of reform? Whatever may be the legislation that may be passed? we must see that this interregnum is not utilized by the landlords to evict tenants on a large scale. It is not as if this Government were against all reforms. The same Government, through one of their Members from Malabar, carried out a legislation for that area. There was already an Act for that area granting security of tenure and fair rents. That was further improved upon and legislation was passed by this House.

"Then, Sir, we had the Kumarappa Committee Report. Even according to that, security of tenure and fair rents have been promised for tenants who have been on the lands for over six years.

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We had that report ready in 1949. Then, Sir, came the Subramaniam Committee Report. Even in that report, which was published in the month of December last year, I find that they have promised though not security or tenure, fair rent and a tenancy of at least five years period. On this point, Sir, there was difference of opinion.

"I do not know how the majority came to the view of giving only five years' protection and no more. Sir, one of the members of the Land Reforms Committee, a big landlord of Tanjore district, Mr. Desigar says in a dissenting minute—

"I think in this particular aspect the report has failed to give a positive lead and I therefore, press the suggestion, that *ad hoc* protection against eviction should be given to all tenants now in occupation, with retrospective effect as suggested by me."

Some of the other members of the Committee have supported this 11-30 a.m. view. Sir, I am asking this Government, who are opposing this measure, whether they have any intention at all of doing anything by the tenants, the cultivating classes of this State. If they have, the only thing I ask of them is this. Let this House or the succeeding House take up that major reform. I know this House may not have the time now though the reform is certainly long overdue. But this measure should pass even if the final proposal be for a minimum period of five years. I may remind the House how even my hon. Friend, the Raja of Chettinad, was pleased to say that this period of five years is not going to satisfy anybody. Other Governments have gone far and parties are vying with one another in order to give some substantial security to the cultivating classes. All talk of reform would be useless if this Government are not prepared at least to comply with this small request which I am making, namely, till the major legislation is settled—if they have the mind it can be settled in 15 days or in a month, because all the materials are there, but they do not want to do it now—to accept this small measure of reform so that people who are on the land and who are being evicted now may be allowed to be there till the major legislation is settled provided they pay every pie of the rent. Every good landlord should have no objection for a legislation of this type. This also applies to house-sites. In several villages, pressure is being brought to evict the tenants and my hon. Friend, Sri Vedaratnam Pillai, has made a complaint about this—I read it in the press. This is only natural because when people know that some major measure of reform is going to come they would like to have the lands in their own possession. I am therefore, hoping that Government would not press their opposition to this measure; it is not good for them. They might to-day by mere strength get a vote in this House in their favour, but very soon all of us have to appear before the electorate again and ask for their suffrage. I ask, Sir, is there any honesty in the opposition of the Government which, 15 years ago, in 1936 promised security of tenure and fair rent and went further in 1946 but to-day are not prepared to pass a simple legislation of this sort?"

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"Sir, the hon. Gentleman, Sri Karanth, before sitting down questioned whether there was any honesty in the attitude the Government have taken in

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(2) THE MADRAS DOWRY PROHIBITION BILL, 1951.

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Sir, I move—

'That leave be granted to introduce the Madras Dowry Prohibition Bill.'"

The motion was duly seconded.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

'That leave be granted to introduce the Madras Dowry Prohibition Bill, 1951.'"

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS :—" Oppose the motion?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" No, Sir, Government are not opposing the request for leave to introduce the Bill. But I want to say one thing. Though Government are not opposing the motion for the introduction of the Bill, it does not mean that they agree with every clause contained in the Bill. There is some doubt in the matter because already the Hindu Code Bill is before Parliament. Clause 93 of that Bill relates to dowry. We have our doubts whether it will be operative or not. No doubt the dowry system is objectionable, and any attempt to stop it should be encouraged. Therefore, without committing the Government on the merits of the particular Bill, Government do not oppose the request for leave to introduce the Bill."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

'That leave be granted to introduce the Madras Dowry Prohibition Bill, 1951.'"

The motion was carried and leave to introduce the Bill was granted.

B. Resolution.

CONTROL OVER PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

'That this Assembly recommends to the Government that the earnings other than immovable property acquired by Government servants occupying gazetted ranks should also be controlled as is done in the case of immovable properties under Rule 10 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.'

"Sir, as it is Rules 10 and 11 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules require that every Government servant belonging to a gazetted cadre should submit to the Government through the head of the department an account of the immovable properties he has acquired. On a particular day every year he has to renew the statement. That helped the Government to come to know what properties were acquired by such officers, how they were acquired and so on. Of course bequests, inherited property and other things are not barred but the same has to be intimated to the Government. Recently the Prime Minister of India has made a salutary

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statement in assessing the reputation of a Government servant. It is very difficult to find out whether a particular Government servant has been honest or otherwise. But standards that have been set for them by Government have been always very right and good. The recent statement of the Prime Minister goes a little further. Till now it has been accepted by all people that unless there is something positive to prove that a particular Government servant has misbehaved, he should not be punished at all just as in other criminal cases. But now, the Prime Minister has gone a step further and said that if any particular Government servant has not been able to establish a good reputation in the district in which he serves, that must be sufficient to make him liable for such punishment as Government may deem fit.

"I do not know why the Prime Minister thought it fit to extend the scope of the Government's displeasure or suspicion to this extent. Probably he must have been justified by the general intrigues in connexion with corruption and ill reputation of Government servants. Therefore, Sir, in view of what the Prime Minister has said about the necessity for good reputation, it behoves our Government to follow a similar procedure to find out, if not the good reputation a Government servant possesses, at least what he has made out during his service. It is not my intention to suggest that all Government servants are corrupt and that there is a sudden upsurge in this crime. But, there have been several complaints and loose talk throughout the State that Government servants have become corrupt. I do not want that the administration should suffer on account of this disrepute. It is therefore necessary that the Government should make the necessary rules for assessing a Government servant's property, both movable and immovable, every year. I am only asking for the extension of Rules 10 and 11 to include movable property also. Sir, Rule 11 says—

'11. Investments.—(1) No Government servant shall speculate in investments. For the purposes of this sub-rule, the habitual purchase and sale of securities of notoriously fluctuating value shall be deemed to be speculation in investments.'

(2) No Government servant shall make nor permit any member of his family to make any investment likely to embarrass or influence him in the discharge of his official duties.'

Not only the Government servant, but every member of his family also is included in this rule. I am asking for further extension of Rule 11 so as to include other movable properties like cash, bullion, etc., besides investments. Then, Sir, Rule 10 is very wide in that it covers not only the Government servant, but his wife or any member of his family. Subsidiary Rule 5 to Rule 10 says—

'The annual return should include all immovable property acquired or registered in the name of the Government servant either on his own account or as a trustee, executor or administrator, or temple mirasdār, or acquired or registered in the name of, or held or managed by his wife or by any other member of his family living with, or in any way dependent on, him.'

Therefore, it is amply provided for in the existing rules that the immovable property of Government servants should be brought under the physical eye of the Government. I do not see any reason

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why the Government should oppose this necessary Resolution which only wants to tighten the rules and enable the Government to have closer inspection and supervision of the properties acquired by Government servants. When the air is thick with rumours, it is in the interests of Government servants themselves that such an annual assessment of their conduct and behaviour in the public should be taken by the Government."

SRI V. JAGGA RAJU :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Mr. V. Raghavayya."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

That this Assembly recommends to the Government that the earnings other than immovable property acquired by Government servants occupying gazetted ranks should also be controlled as is done in the case of immovable properties under Rule 10 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules."

SRI P. NATESAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to oppose the Resolution moved by the hon. Gentleman, Mr. V. Raghavayya. It is not that I am not unaware of the corruption on the part of Government servants. It seems mischievous to ask Government servants to account for movable property like jewellery and other things. It will be absolutely impossible for the Government to control this movable property. Sir, I am not satisfied even now that the immovable property returns are being submitted properly and that they are subjected to proper scrutiny on the part of the Government. But, I have no doubt that the Government will take notice of the intention of the Members of this House and see that the existing rules are properly enforced. Sir, it is easy to attribute motives to a number of public officials who have no chance of rebutting any accusations that may be made against them. It is possible that owing to malice or ever so many quarrels in districts there may be petitions and counter-petitions against Government officials. And I have no doubt that the Government will have absolutely no time to go into these. It would be desirable to find out if Government servants make money by investment either in jewels or in securities. But it is a different matter to ask them to submit returns year after year. Thousands of returns will be submitted and they should be scrutinized and I do not think it is the real intention of the Mover of the Resolution to harass Government servants in this manner. We should also appreciate the work done by Government servants. Otherwise the machinery of Government administration will break down completely. Therefore, Sir, I would only request the Government to see that the existing Rule 10, asking for returns of immovable properties held by Government servants, is enforced and the returns scrutinized properly. I understand that in this work there are considerable lapses on the part of Government servants. With these few words, I oppose the Resolution."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that the whole question of corruption in public service

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and how to put it down is being looked into, according to newspaper reports I have seen, by the Government of India in the Home Ministry at a very high level, it may not be appropriate to push a Resolution of this kind through the House. I also object to petty harassment of Government servants. Possibly the percentage of corruption is very highly exaggerated. It may seem that, as times go on, due to the increasing responsibility shown by everybody including non-officials, the conduct of Government servants is bound to show great improvement. Even to-day there is nothing to prevent the Government from looking into the account of private properties of Government servants and there is nothing which can be kept back once an enquiry is started. The power is already there. But the rule as is embodied in the Resolution requiring the Government servants to send annual returns of their movable property like jewellery, furniture, money spent in marriages, etc., is simple harassment. We should leave things to settle down both by public opinion and governmental propriety and see that the whole object is achieved in a different manner. Instead of that, if we push on this rigid rule and mere conformity to that being obtained, I do not think it will solve the problem. As against conformity to this rule we should depend on the spirit of public service which ought to permeate one and all including both Government servants and ourselves."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know what prompted the hon. Gentleman Mr. Raghavayya to come forward with this Resolution. Possibly he came across one individual or possibly he is not willing to allow any Government servant to possess even some jewels which are absolutely necessary for his womanfolk. If the existing rules require any revision and if we want to put down corruption, if there is any, amongst Government servants, we have to proceed in a different way. I believe it is necessary for us to go into the root cause of corruption which, as everybody knows, is the present state of economic conditions in the country. The present salaries of Government servants are not at all commensurate with the status they have to maintain in service. They should also have a show of authority in order that the administration can go on. There is a good deal that the Government themselves can do with regard to this particular complaint that the Government officials are becoming richer and richer. To ask them to submit annual returns of their movable properties along with immovable properties at the end of their service, is not correct. What the Government have to do is to try to enquire into the nature of administration of various departments with a view to find out whether any reform is necessary in the nature of administration. Instead of that, if we condemn one class of Government servants as being corrupt and responsible for acts of misdeeds, certainly it is too much. There is no meaning in condemning the whole class of Government servants on account of the mistake or wrong done by a few individuals. Besides, we have got rules and regulations with the aid of which we can certainly put down corruption if it exists in any department. In

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why the Government should oppose this necessary Resolution which only wants to tighten the rules and enable the Government to have closer inspection and supervision of the properties acquired by Government servants. When the air is thick with rumours, it is in the interests of Government servants themselves that such an annual assessment of their conduct and behaviour in the public should be taken by the Government."

SRI V. JAGGA RAJU :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Mr. V. Raghavayya."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

That this Assembly recommends to the Government that the earnings other than immovable property acquired by Government servants occupying gazetted ranks should also be controlled as is done in the case of immovable properties under Rule 10 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules."

SRI P. NATESAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to oppose the Resolution moved by the hon. Gentleman, Mr. V. Raghavayya. It is not that I am not unaware of the corruption on the part of Government servants. It seems mischievous to ask Government servants to account for movable property like jewellery and other things. It will be absolutely impossible for the Government to control this movable property. Sir, I am not satisfied even now that the immovable property returns are being submitted properly and that they are subjected to proper scrutiny on the part of the Government. But, I have no doubt that the Government will take notice of the intention of the Members of this House and see that the existing rules are properly enforced. Sir, it is easy to attribute motives to a number of public officials who have no chance of rebutting any accusations that may be made against them. It is possible that owing to malice or ever so many quarrels in districts there may be petitions and counter-petitions against Government officials. And I have no doubt that the Government will have absolutely no time to go into these. It would be desirable to find out if Government servants make money by investment either in jewels or in securities. But it is a different matter to ask them to submit returns year after year. Thousands of returns will be submitted and they should be scrutinized and I do not think it is the real intention of the Mover of the Resolution to harass Government servants in this manner. We should also appreciate the work done by Government servants. Otherwise the machinery of Government administration will break down completely. Therefore, Sir, I would only request the Government to see that the existing Rule 10, asking for returns of immovable properties held by Government servants, is enforced and the returns scrutinized properly. I understand that in this work there are considerable lapses on the part of Government servants. With these few words, I oppose the Resolution."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that the whole question of corruption in public service

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and how to put it down is being looked into, according to newspaper reports I have seen, by the Government of India in the Home Ministry at a very high level, it may not be appropriate to push a Resolution of this kind through the House. I also object to petty harassment of Government servants. Possibly the percentage of corruption is very highly exaggerated. It may seem that, as times go on, due to the increasing responsibility shown by everybody including non-officials, the conduct of Government servants is bound to show great improvement. Even to-day there is nothing to prevent the Government from looking into the account of private properties of Government servants and there is nothing which can be kept back once an enquiry is started. The power is already there. But the rule as is embodied in the Resolution requiring the Government servants to send annual returns of their movable property like jewellery, furniture, money spent in marriages, etc., is simple harassment. We should leave things to settle down both by public opinion and governmental propriety and see that the whole object is achieved in a different manner. Instead of that, if we push on this rigid rule and mere conformity to that being obtained, I do not think it will solve the problem. As against conformity to this rule we should depend on the spirit of public service which ought to permeate one and all including both Government servants and ourselves."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know what prompted the hon. Gentleman Mr. Raghavayya to come forward with this Resolution. Possibly he came across one individual or possibly he is not willing to allow any Government servant to possess even some jewels which are absolutely necessary for his womanfolk. If the existing rules require any revision and if we want to put down corruption, if there is any, amongst Government servants, we have to proceed in a different way. I believe it is necessary for us to go into the root cause of corruption which, as everybody knows, is the present state of economic conditions in the country. The present salaries of Government servants are not at all commensurate with the status they have to maintain in service. They should also have a show of authority in order that the administration can go on. There is a good deal that the Government themselves can do with regard to this particular complaint that the Government officials are becoming richer and richer. To ask them to submit annual returns of their movable properties along with immovable properties at the end of their service, is not correct. What the Government have to do is to try to enquire into the nature of administration of various departments with a view to find out whether any reform is necessary in the nature of administration. Instead of that, if we condemn one class of Government servants as being corrupt and responsible for acts of misdeeds, certainly it is too much. There is no meaning in condemning the whole class of Government servants on account of the mistake or wrong done by a few individuals. Besides, we have got rules and regulations with the aid of which we can certainly put down corruption if it exists in any department. In

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regard to his measure. Let me remind the hon. Member that this Government have as much honesty as he had when he introduced the Bill in 1946, and did not include the entire State in that measure. He knows that at that time there was a proposal to extend the Act to the whole of the State and he in consultation with some of his colleagues decided that it should be extended only to areas to which it was confined and he was the mover of that Bill."

* SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" May I just correct, the Hon. Gentleman? There was no question at that time of having a Bill for the whole State because matters were ready only for the zamindari legislation by reason of the previous report of the Congress in 1936-38. The legislation was therefore intended only for Malabar and the Estates, not for the other areas. At that time we had no such idea because we asked for an enquiry and then I prepared a separate Bill for the purpose. It was not as if it was deliberately omitted at that time."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, I am only sorry that the hon. Gentleman seems to forget the events that happened at that time. I say the proposal did emanate in the form of a Bill for the entire State. He had discussions with his then colleagues and it was suggested that it might be confined to the areas for which he introduced a Bill. The copies of the proceedings of the Assembly are available here. They are open for inspection by anybody. At the time of the discussion two hon. Members of the House suggested that it should extend not only to the areas to which he was proposing the Bill, but that it should be applicable for the entire State. He had ample opportunities to do it if he felt so strongly about it to question the motives of others. Why should he not have done it then? Was there no need for it then?"

"Then, Sir, he referred to the Raghavendra Rao Committee Report. It is true the matter was being investigated by a Special Officer and it is therefore just and proper that at that time he and his colleagues should have taken the decision they took, namely, not to extend it to the entire State, because they had not adequate material to go upon. But, Sir, to question the honesty of the present Government, forgetting the fact of what he did, is not right. He said: 'In 1938, the Bombay Government passed a legislation in this regard. We are now in 1951. The present Ministry have done nothing. Are they honest and sincere? Do they not want to do something to the cultivating tenants?' Sir, our helpful attitude so far as the cultivating tenants are concerned, can be proved from the fact that this Ministry was responsible for the abolition of the zamindars. Not merely did we abolish them by an Act but we have implemented it. Ours is the first State in the whole country that could look back with pride upon having introduced a measure of social reform which had gone to benefit lakhs of cultivating tenants and small owners of lands. This Government can take credit for reducing the rent in the zamindari areas. There the people were being rack-rented. I claim credit for having reduced their rent burden. That is enough proof, practical proof, if proof were needed of the Government's anxiety and

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desire to help the cultivating tenant, the agricultural classes. I do not think, Sir, there can be a better proof. So, my hon. Friend need not question our honesty and sincerity. People know what the Government mean to do and what they have done. I am quite satisfied about what we have done.

"Sir, so far as this measure is concerned, we do understand the need for it. That is the reason why the whole question of land tenure was referred to a committee whose report has just been received. Raghavendra Rao Committee Report and the Kumarappa Committee Report have both been referred to and the hon. Members who constituted this latest Committee have examined the question thoroughly and have submitted their report in two volumes. The hon. Member must be fully aware, Sir, how it takes time in the Government departments to examine these things and arrive at a decision. It is not a thing that could be rushed through. But the hon. Member said: 'If the Government had the mind they could have done it in 15 days or in a month.' Sir, the hon. Member had the Ministry in his hands in 1946. He could have done it then. When it is suggested that I can do it in 15 days now, I ask, Sir, what was he doing during the eleven months he was in the Ministry. He had the example of Bombay having done it in 1938. What was he doing at that time, Sir, I ask? So, Sir, it is better that people who live in glass houses do not throw stones at others.

"Coming to the merits of the measure, the hon. Mover said that there were large-scale evictions by landlords due to the scare created by the report of the Land Reforms Committee. Let me tell the hon. Member that Government have not received such reports from many districts. The only report that has been received was in respect of South Kanara and some parts of Tanjore district. I have not received complaints of large-scale evictions. Even in regard to the complaint from South Kanara, because I was anxious to know whether it was necessary to extend this measure to that district, I referred the matter to the Collector. I have received a report from him. He says there is no need for such a measure as there were no large-scale evictions. Sir, am I not to depend on the report of my own officer, a competent officer who is in the district? It may be asked, Sir, what is the basis for my Collector's report. I say the basis is the proceedings in the courts.

"Sir, there is the report of the Land Reforms Committee which has made some recommendations. Government are examining these recommendations. We shall certainly do what is good to the cultivating tenants. No doubt, people might talk questioning the honesty and sincerity of Government to cover themselves with glory by saying things which are not true. I strongly object and oppose this Bill."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

'That leave be granted to introduce the Madras Cultivating Tenants' Protection Bill, 1951.' "

The motion was lost and leave to introduce the Bill was refused.

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the face of such a position, any direction to the Government to enforce these rules more strictly than now would amount to publicly condemning the whole service.

12 noon. " Besides, Sir, the administration will suffer, as it has already suffered owing to various reasons, and if we are going to add one more to those reasons which have caused a fall in the standard of administration, we will be ruining the administration itself. Keeping an official always on tenterhooks and putting not only himself but the inmates of his house also on guard unnecessarily all the time as to whether somebody is going to examine the jewels, the utensils, the saris and the clothes that may be available in his house is not fair. It is rather unfortunate, Sir, that we should bring in this House, things that are better done quietly by a talk with the officials or, as the hon. Gentleman Sri Varadachari said, by creating sound public opinion. How can sound public opinion be created when some of us are not above-board? These things should begin from us. We who are in public life should have some sort of an introspection and look into our own selves and our own actions and try to find out whether we are all right. I am sure, Sir, as the Hon. the Leader of the House said the other day, corruption is not entirely due to an officer receiving money or any help from the giver. It is the giver who is to a very large extent responsible for corruption. Those of us who are in public life have to set a good example and, if we reform ourselves, I have no doubt in my mind that there will be a considerable change in the outlook of the officials, if at all they are corrupt. Therefore, I am afraid, I must most emphatically oppose this resolution."

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no doubt that the Government as well as the people wish that Government servants are above corruption. The reputation of the Government depends upon the integrity of its servants and the country's integrity also depends upon its public servants. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished for, Sir, but how to achieve it, is the question. If the mover of this resolution, thinks that the incorporation of this resolution in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules will achieve it, I think, he is mistaken. As my Friends who preceded me have said there are rules in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules which give full power to the Government to enquire what money the Government servant, against whom a charge of corruption is brought forward, has in the banks or what jewellery he has acquired during the tenure of his office. Nothing prevents the Government from enquiring into these things. Let us consider whether any such rule as proposed in the resolution would have any effect. On the other hand, a Government servant who is corrupt will always take care to secrete his ill-gotten gains and to see that he is not detected and the passing of such rules will only amount to encouraging Government servants to take to questionable means and to take steps to see that they are not detected. As my friend Varadachari said it is a proper atmosphere and public opinion that should be created in the country. It is these alone that will go a long way in shaping the

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conduct of Government servants. My Friend is thinking of Government servants. There are one or two methods by which Government servants, the Gazetted Government servants, can be expected to be above-board. One method is that at least in the case of these Gazetted servants, they should be directly recruited. It is a very salutary principle. We come into contact with these officials and from our experience we know that most of the Government servants of gazetted rank who have been directly recruited have been good. This does not mean that persons of proved integrity should not be promoted to gazetted rank. This is one of the methods by which we can see that gazetted officers conduct themselves in a very desirable manner. Therefore my submission is that the first thing that we, the people of the country, should strive to do is to create public opinion and let the people themselves make up their minds not to encourage Government servants to take bribes. Corruption does not mean that the man who takes money only is corrupt. There are several ways in which he strays away from the right path on account of the influences brought to bear upon him by several means. To give an example, suppose a Government servant's relation happens to be an Insurance Agent. If a person canvasses for the Insurance Agent and gets him policies, naturally the Government servant whose relation the Insurance Agent happens to be, is influenced in favour of the person who helps his relation. There are several ways in which Government servants can be influenced and made to stray away from the right path. If, in a certain locality, a certain group of persons, at least the intelligentsia who are supposed to have some influence over the masses, make up their minds that no tips or illegal gratifications should be given and make a conscious effort, it will certainly have its effect on other persons who associate with them and a very good atmosphere will be thus created in which a corrupt man cannot live and have his being. Therefore a duty lies on the public as well as on the Government and if we discharge the duty on our part we will be meeting this very bad situation. It is an ideal that must be pursued. This resolution is not a practical method for rooting out the corruption which is prevalent. Therefore my submission is, however much one may wish that there should be no corruption in the rank and file of Government servants, however much one may wish not to be told that their countrymen who happen to be in some authority have no moral backbone and however much the Government which happens to be the master of these Government servants may take action against them, the only remedy is that we must create public opinion and an atmosphere in which a corrupt man cannot live and have his being. So, I reluctantly oppose this motion."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I wish to fix a time-limit of 5 minutes for each member."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel I must oppose the resolution moved by my hon. Friend Raghavaya. Sir, if this resolution is accepted, I think, we will be

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treading on very dangerous ground. Formerly, before Independence, Government servants were serving an alien Government but now they are with us and I think we have to give an impetus to them so that the services required of them may be got in an adequate manner to the State. I know, as a matter of fact, there are people who are not fully co-operating or carrying out the good intentions of the Government. It is most unfortunate but if there is to be any uplift in morality it has to be entirely left to the officers themselves. For us, Sir, as representatives of the Harijan community, we know how these officers will react if I support this resolution. In my opinion, we do not get justice even though the Government have enunciated their policies in regard to Harijans. Now, if we were to join in a resolution of this sort, I know what will be the terrible future of the people in the villages. I believe, Sir, that in the interests of the poorer classes this resolution will be very dangerous and I oppose it."

12-15
p.m.

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid I have to oppose this resolution because it is impractical and unworkable. We all deprecate the corruption that may be prevalent among Government servants and are at one with Mr. Raghavayya in his desire to put down this corruption, but could not accept the suggestion made by him. If this resolution is passed, the effect of it will be that every Government official will have to account for whatever his wife and children may acquire in any year. Whenever his wife would buy a new sari or a wrist-watch or he would buy a fountain-pen or even a button, account would have to be kept of such purchases. I submit that such a proposition is not workable and would lead to unnecessary harassment of Government servants. Already the prestige of Government officials has gone down considerably in this country, so much so that it is difficult in these days for the Government to secure the services of young men of good standing and high qualifications for their various departments. I have come across instances recently of young men, who, after passing the Indian Administrative Service examination, have refused to join Government service, because they have better prospects elsewhere and also because they know that there is unnecessary harassment of Government servants—these days. Mr. Raghavayya would have served public cause better if instead of bringing forward this resolution, he had brought forward a resolution to eradicate the corruption that is rampant in the non-official world (Hear, hear). Most of the corruption that is prevalent in the official world is due, as a matter of fact, to the corrupt mind of non-officials. Things have come to such a pass that I feel that it is necessary to see that the giver of the bribe is also punished and not merely the receiver. I would therefore request Mr. Raghavayya to bring forward a resolution to this effect. That would be a better method of putting down corruption than by acting on the resolution before this House."

* SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree that the hon. Member Mr. Raghavayya has a pure mind in bringing

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forward this resolution, but it is needless for me to say how extremely undesirable and unnecessary such a resolution is, for two or three reasons. The main point is the necessary resulting harassment involved in the course of ascertaining the movable properties of Government servants. So far as immovable properties are concerned, I am glad my hon. Friend Mr. Raghavayya has restricted the resolution to gazetted officers—he has not extended it to non-gazetted officers. We all know the present conditions in this country; the cost of living has risen and is rising enormously and the Government are not able to control it. Any person who is not satisfied with the action or orders of a Government official may cause a lot of sorrow and harassment to the family of that official. The hon. Member Begum Saheba has perhaps forgotten one important thing. Nowadays, more and more ladies are entering Government service, not only in non-gazetted ranks but also in the gazetted ranks; and if men servants feel that the harassment is unbearable and undesirable, how much more will women servants feel such harassment and annoyance that may be caused to them? I do feel, Sir, that there is no parallel to this resolution in any other State in the country, probably in any other country in any part of the world. I feel, Sir, that my hon. Friend Mr. Raghavayya should think of doing better things than think of interfering with the Government Servants' Conduct Rules at this stage."

* SRI G. RAJAMANNAR CHETTI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, we can easily understand and we do appreciate my hon. Friend Mr. Raghavayya's objective in placing this resolution before us. While his idea is good, his method is bad. While his objective is good, the method suggested by him is rather defective. He has stated that Rule 10 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules may be extended to movable properties also. At the same time, he has not told us how far rule 10 has been successful, in how many cases Government servants have been detected while acquiring fortunes, and how that rule has proved to be so useful that it should now be extended to movable properties also. I would suggest that the right method is for the Government to remove the opportunities for Government servants to practise corruption, and also prevent the people, who are forced to adopt corrupt methods from tempting Government servants with bribes; such rules of procedure should be so framed by the Government as would be fool-proof and would avoid the necessity for the ordinary citizen to be forced to adopt such methods. It would be more effective and conduce to better administration, if no chances are given to both the giver and the taker, instead of punishing and victimising them. Any corruption that may be said to exist only reflects the standard of administration in any Government. If officers are corrupt, then the administration is defective. There must be some prescribed rules which should be adopted by the officials, and if any official does not conform to them, he must be punished. The question of bribe and corruption will come only later. I would therefore suggest that after hearing all the hon. Members who support and those who

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oppose this resolution, the Government will do well to see that definite rules are prescribed for Government officers and also certain rules for the citizens to follow, so that they may not adopt these questionable methods. The Government have got the Intelligence corps. What is that Intelligence corps doing? Is it not possible for the Intelligence department to be watching the movements of officers, the change in their standards of living in case it is not commensurate with their salaries, etc.? It would be better and more administration-like if Government adopt such methods of finding out corrupt practice among Government servants than depend upon the details furnished by them. I suggest to my hon. Friend Mr. Raghavayya that he should put forward a more intelligent method of fighting corruption than blindly suggesting the extension of rule 10 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules—which is by itself defective—and moving a bald resolution here like this. As the hon. Friend who preceded me stated, corruption is after all, bi-lateral. Very often it is either extraction or inducement; and they can certainly be prevented if the present loose administration is tightened up, and if the correct procedure is prescribed and adopted. Anybody trying to contravene the rules and regulations so prescribed must be given deterrent punishment. It is only then that we can really elevate the standard of administration, and not by adopting impracticable and questionable methods for eradicating corruption."

JANAB N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am amazed that it should have occurred to the hon. Gentleman Mr. Raghavayya to bring forward a resolution suggesting a method for fighting out corruption. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has become the fashion of the day—and it is extremely demoralizing to think of it—to decry everybody who is somebody in life. To-day we start with decrying the Government officials, and it has become easy to decry them because they cannot defend themselves. The hon. Gentleman Mr. Raghavayya will be ultimately bringing the problem of corruption to the Members of this House, because the day will not be far when even Members of the House will be subjected to these enquiries. I ask, Mr. Speaker, where all this is going to end. Is it that we are taking this country into a vast abyss(?) by looking upon everybody who goes about in this world as a suspect? What is it that we expect of the Government servants? We have armed them with certain authority to implement the policies of the Government, and we expect the officers to go about discharging their duties with elementary self-respect. But if at the same time you are going to surround them with suspicions, do you expect, Mr. Speaker, that they will be in a position to discharge their responsibilities with any self-respect? I have been myself a Government official once, and I know that there are rules and regulations, quite enough, which enable a proper vigilance being kept over the conduct of the Government officers. There are periodical returns and there are immediate superiors who are closely watching the conduct of the subordinate officers, and those, I think,

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are quite enough for the moment. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, the Government official to-day is more sinned against than sinning. It has become now an easy job for anybody to present a certain petition to a Government official, and if only that Government official is not able to oblige him, any Tom, Dick or Harry may at once rush to the Ministry, rush to the Secretariat, or rush to anybody who is immediately placed above that official and make charges against him. I believe rule 10 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules provides adequate measures for taking disciplinary action against such an official. Let us not now add to his burden, to his worries and to his anxieties. It is high time that we think of arming the Government officers with enough self-respect to discharge their duties."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, I did not expect that Members would so intuitively react against the proposition moved by the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Raghavayya. I originally thought that it would have some little support and Government would have to request Mr. Raghavayya not to press the resolution. But I find that nine Members have spoken and all the nine of them have opposed the hon. Member, Mr. Raghavayya's resolution. This is really very good, and I congratulate hon. Members on their healthy reaction to certain propositions that are brought forward, and that when there is no whip even on the part of the Government. It is really a very healthy sign that they are instinctively coming to very healthy decisions.

"Sir, not all the rules that we have in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules or in the provisions of the Penal Code, can prevent any non-official or official from being corrupt if he wants to be corrupt; he has ways and means of getting himself corrupt, and I do not think that in the face of what is done secretly overnight or stealthily, these rules and the provisions in the Penal Code or the Sutras in the various religious books, will prevent a man from being dishonest. You will have to trust the good sense of people and also public opinion in these matters and neighbourly feeling and general morale of the people should be kept high, so that healthy conventions might be established instead of everybody trying to suspect everybody else and putting men in the black list as suspects. As suggested by an hon. Member it is not possible to employ all the Intelligence corps or use Gestapo methods against Government servants. Sometimes they are discharging very unpleasant tasks. For instance, a Commercial Tax Officer discharges an unpleasant duty and with his own assesses he is unpopular because he has to be very strict and exercise his best judgment and assess them properly. Of course, it is very easy for people to come forward and say that so and so is corrupt. I agree entirely with the hon. Gentleman Mr. Anwar that in spite of various rumours that we hear that corruption is rampant, the Government servant is more sinned against than sinning, and there is no use prying into his private affairs.

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"Then, Sir, in regard to what is movable property, according to the General Clauses Act, it is laid down that whatever is not immovable property is movable property. So, with that definition, it will be very difficult to find out what it is. Again, according to the General Clauses Act, immovable property shall mean property of every description, except movable property. Therefore, movable property is a very wide term and it would be very difficult to implement the resolution. It will also be very difficult and embarrassing for Government servants if we pry into their private property. No woman will like to be the wife of a Government servant under those circumstances.

"Then again, Sir, as I said, movable property is a very wide term and the hon. Member Mr. Raghavayya tried to make a distinction between earnings out of movable and immovable property. I do not know what exactly he means by earnings. Generally, a corrupt officer is always a clever officer and he is something above normal and therefore he can invent stories to the effect that he got this or that from his father-in-law or somebody else. My own feeling is that rules do not make people honest, but it is something else and it is their own fear of God, or people, or public opinion and things like that that make them honest, not merely the fear of the Police or the State or Gestapo methods. Therefore, Sir, I do not think it is necessary to extend rule 10 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules to movable property also. Apart from that, rule 10 is not worked properly, according to my own belief. It is difficult to scrutinize all statements made by various Government officials and we will have to accept the statements made by them. It may be they have had recourse to some little corrupt practice and acquired landed property or house property and it may be said that those things were given to them or purchased out of savings from salaries. All these reasons can be advanced. As I said, even rule 10 is difficult to enforce strictly and it is difficult to see whether a man has really earned something by honest or dishonest means.

"Apart from all these, Sir, I request the hon. Mover not to press this resolution, because the Government of India are considering of a solution for this problem of movable and immovable property. So, I think, it is better we await what they are going to do, instead of pressing this resolution and taking a unilateral decision on this. Moreover, the Government Servants' Conduct Rules stood the test of time for a very long time. After all, just now owing to controls and other things, there may be a lot of corruption and it is only a passing phase and we do expect both the officials and non-officials will certainly come up to expectation, so that the administration may be carried on on proper lines without chances for exactions. As I said, the Government Servants' Conduct Rules stood the test of time and very able administrators have gone into the question carefully and ultimately all their experience has been embodied in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. So, it is not right that we should tamper with them here and there and tinker with the problem. As I said, these rules do not make people honest

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or improve their integrity. I would therefore request the hon. Member Mr. Raghavayya to withdraw his resolution, in view of the fact that the Government of India are also considering the question."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—"Sir, certainly I am prepared to withdraw the resolution in view of the fact that the Government of India also are considering this question in all its bearings. Only one word I would like to say as regards the way in which some of my Friends have successfully misunderstood or said what I did not intend. For one thing, the hon. Member Mr. Muniswami Pillay connected this resolution with the Harijans. But, I do not know how it will affect them in any conceivable manner by our talking on this resolution in this House. In fact, it has nothing to do with the Harijans. In regard to the harassment of the Harijans, I do not know what conceivable relationship there is between my resolution and the Harijans.

"Then, the hon. lady Member, Begum Amiruddin, has drawn much from her imagination when she referred to the number of things that a Government servant, and particularly a woman member of the service, will have to answer. It is not the intention of this resolution at all. Then, several hon. Members have understood me to say that I have asked for an inventory of all the Government servants' possessions. Sir, that is not my idea. The language of the resolution is clear. It merely says that 'the earnings other than immovable property acquired by Government servants occupying gazetted ranks should also be controlled'. I may point out to hon. Members that my proposition is not as absurd as they think it to be. A long time ago, I know an important official during the British days, was hauled up by an ex-Chief Minister of this State—and he was successfully hauled up—and was asked to leave our country for good. It is of course not difficult to ascertain the movable earnings of a person. What I say is, only when the earning become colossal the Government's attention is drawn to it. What I thought was, it would be better to know the progress of a Government servants movable earnings from year to year, rather than catch hold of him after sufficient mischief has been done. There is no use in that when he has already sufficiently ruined the reputation of the Government.

"One more thing, Sir. When the Government themselves are not keen on having a closer eye and a tighter hold upon their own servants, I also need not be very anxious. But, the question is, when we go about the country, people generally talk loosely, very loosely too and it is not my intention to say that all the Government servants are corrupt. I never said so. Some members have enthused over that allegation, which I never made. It is not that I believe that all the Government servants are such and if so, Government would not have carried on even to this extent. What I feel is, in the interests of the Government servant himself, it is necessary to say from time to time what property he possessed and there is nothing wrong in making a provision like that in the

[Sri V. Raghavayya] [80th August 1951]

rules. If, as some Members seem to think, it will be considered as harassment in respect of gazetted officers, I have no objection to withdraw the resolution."

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

IV.—MOTION UNDER RULE 24 OF THE MADRAS ASSEMBLY RULES.

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

' That Rule 24 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 30th August 1951.'

" For once, I am glad that hon. Members are very happy that we have given a non-official day for them. Now that the non-official business is over, I want that the rest of the day may be devoted to Government business."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

' That Rule 24 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 30th August 1951.'

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Sir, I was hoping that the Hon. Leader of the House was intending to ask the House to devote to-day or at least the rest of the day, after disposing of the Bills and the resolution of non-official members to the food debate, in which case, we thought it would be easier for us to agree to the motion for conversion of non-official day into an official day. Now, Sir, while I do not want to stand in the way of the Hon. Leader of the House converting to-day as an official day, because the net result will be, after official work is completed the food debate will be reached quicker, I would request the Hon. Food Minister and the Hon. Leader of the House to give us an assurance, before the motion is put to vote, to enable us to come to a decision, whether they have allotted any time for the food debate during this session, which I respectfully submit, is very urgent and necessary."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Sir, we would like to have the food debate on Saturday and I hope it will be concluded on that day, because we have other business to transact. (Raja Muthiah Chettiyar of Chettinad : 'I want the Hon. Leader of the House to say it definitely.') Yes, Saturday will be devoted entirely to the food debate but it cannot be carried on to Monday next."

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—" Just a suggestion, Sir. When food ration was given at 8 oz. we took three days and now when it is 6 oz. it is not possible to have only one day. All the same, we want three or four days for the food debate."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

' That Rule 24 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 30th August 1951.'

The motion was carried.

V.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS DISTRICT BOARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951—cont.

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was 12-45 submitting that the Constitution Act does not make a provision p.m. regarding the constitution of local bodies and this is a matter which is left entirely to the State Legislature. Under the terms of the Constitution Act, when the State makes a law it should not offend the general provisions contained in the Constitution. The hon. Gentleman Sri Muniswami Pillay is not correct when he said that according to the Minorities Committee Report, when the Constitution was being framed, the question of local bodies came up for consideration and some conclusions were arrived at. The fact that in regard to Parliament and the State Legislatures reservations were provided for in the case of Scheduled Castes and Tribes and no mention was made in the Constitution regarding reservation for them and also for women in the local bodies, Sir, is proof positive that the Constitution Act did not intend that in any law that may be made by the State Legislature regarding local bodies there should be provision for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Women. In the absence of a clear provision for reservation of seats in the local bodies in the Constitution Act, we have to see whether such a provision offends or does not offend the Constitution. Under Article 14 of the Constitution Act :

' The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law '

which means that when you make a law, you cannot deny any one equality before the law which has been given by the Constitution. And any law which the State might make cannot contravene this provision. It may be contended that Article 15 as amended recently by the introduction of clause (4) enables a provision for such a purpose being made by the State Legislature. I have scrutinized the provisions, even Article 15 as amended and I do not think that it helps the Government to make a reservation of this kind. The new amendment reads—

' Nothing in this Article or in clause (2) of Article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.'

This is what clause (3) of Article 15 says—

' Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children.'

This is what clause (1) says—

' The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.'

[Janab Mohamed Abdul Salam] [30th August 1951]

come here. Sir, there is no point in rushing through this legislation. The Government have already received enough rebuffs from the High Court. I know a judgment of the Madras High Court in which it was remarked that the drafting of the Bill was very inartistic, and inaccurate. Ideal conditions do not exist at present to warrant the passage of this legislation. I ask, can a Hindu be returned from a constituency where Muslims predominate or can a Reddi be successful in a constituency where Kammas predominate. So also, can a Muslim be elected in a constituency where Hindus are in a majority? Even the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Muniswami Pillay, has no confidence in the majority community and he wanted reservation for Harijans. He says 'we cannot depend upon the Government or the Caste-Hindus and we want reservation. Leave alone others.' If there is reaction and frustration, something bad is going to happen and it is going to affect them. I do not want reservation. What is the state of things to-day? There is communalism even in the Congress which is the greatest organization in the country. Even our Ministers if they belong to any sub-community, have no chance in a constituency where that sub-community does not predominate. That is why our Ministers are thinking of contesting the elections from constituencies other than I am told, that the Hon. Mr. Gopala Reddi is not contesting his seat from his own constituency but from another constituency . . ."

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Is it relevant to talk like this? Any citizen can seek election from any constituency."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" The same things are prevailing in Malabar also. (Laughter.) I am not speaking about the rules and regulations regarding elections and I know enough of them. Yesterday, speeches were made by Hon. Ministers and the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Varadachari, about the high ideals that they stood for. It is no good telling that 'If you are good, you will be returned from any constituency whether you are a Muslim or a Hindu'. I shall only say that it is not possible even within the Hindu community and that is why I said that in a particular place where a particular sub-community dominates, another sub-community has no chance. The Hon. Leader of the House may consider himself to be the champion of all communities and speak with authority either on behalf of the Government or on behalf of the party and of the three Pradesh Committees—I am sorry he is not here—but I think, it is but proper that there should be a real approach to the question of minorities. There is no real approach to this problem and yet hasty action on the part of individual Ministers is going on. I ask the Leader of the House to accept the present position of various communities and sub-castes in this State. Why not we have double-member constituencies? In such constituencies, minorities will be returned. I am not worried about the Muslims. In United Province they are following the same Constitution as we do and they have somehow managed to get 100 double-member constituencies for the State Assembly. That being

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so, I cannot understand why it will offend the spirit of the Constitution in this State alone. Sir, I was elected as a Municipal Councillor from a constituency where the Muslims are in a minority and was also elected as Vice-Chairman in a municipality where Muslims are only 5 out of 38. The then President of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee, Prof. Ranga, nominated one of the Congress members to oppose me but he was defeated. It is possible, if there is no co-operation anything may happen. By creating double-member constituencies, the Hon. Minister can place even the sub-communities of his community in an advantageous position. What is happening in Malabar? If I speak anything about the minorities there, the Hon. Law Minister will immediately rise up and say, 'Here is a communalist. Here is a Muslim Leaguer' . . ."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Is the Muslim Leaguer as bad as a Communist? Are they both of the same type? "

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" I said 'communalist'. Congressmen can call a conference of Vanniakula Kshatriyas within the party and they can be good Congressmen. They can call a conference of people belonging to Malabar and yet they are patriots. They can call a conference of Reddis under the leadership of the Hon. Mr. Sitarama Reddi and yet call themselves Congressmen. The members from the Ceded districts can call for a conference and meet and discuss and ask for all facilities for them saying, 'Our districts are a backward area; the Ceded Districts Development Board must undertake more irrigation works and improve our conditions. Hands off the Ceded districts and so on . . . ' They call themselves Congressmen. They are all patriots."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Let the hon. Member come to the point."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" Let there be double-member constituencies in local boards so as to ensure that all minorities like Muslims and Christians may be adequately represented."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to communal representation in Local Boards, I want to give my own opinion in a dispassionate way, giving up all passion or vituperation. The authors of the Constitution wanted the unity of the nation as early as possible and therefore, they removed representation even for women. The Harijans somehow fought for separate representation for ten years because untouchability is a very great disability which imposes upon them social and economic difficulties. Therefore, they succeeded in getting reservation. So far as the legal position is concerned, we have to see whether there is anything in the Constitution to prevent the Government of the State from providing for communal representation in district boards, municipalities and panchayats if they choose to do so. There is nothing against it. No doubt, the spirit of the Constitution is to create national solidarity but we have to take into account local considerations and I must confess that the time has not yet come for removing communal representation. In this Bill, the Hon. Minister for Local

[Janab Mahboob Ali Baig] [30th August 1951]

It is needless for me to say, Sir, that clauses (3) and (4) must be construed in relation to the main Article and they must be construed within the universe of discourse of the Article. It means that some discrimination has to be made in their favour or against them. It is not possible for women to be employed in certain Services, the Army for instance. There may be a prohibition against their being employed in mines during night time; they may be given medical leave with or without pay. These are some of the matters that are contemplated under clause (3) but that does not entitle the State Legislature to reserve seats for them. Regarding the protection of the interests of minorities, unfortunately clause (2) of Article 29 was interpreted by the Supreme Court to mean that no reservation of seats for them can be made for admission to professional or other colleges and Article 46 which dealt with the desirability of encouraging the weaker sections of the people could not help the minorities because that was in the Chapter of the Constitution dealing with Directive Principles of State Policy. It was considered that some provision should be made for that purpose and that is how clause (4) of Article 15 was brought into existence. Therefore, Sir, you will see that clause (4) cannot be pressed into service for the purpose of reserving seats in local bodies. If the Parliament had intended that apart from concessions to them in the field of education and appointments and so on, they should have some more, the Parliament would have certainly made provision elsewhere. They have not done it. Taking into consideration the fact that Articles 15 and 19 have been amended, it is clear that it has nothing to do with the composition of local bodies. This is my view of the matter, Sir, and I hope the Government would have the matter examined. When I take objection to this, I must not be misunderstood as being opposed to this class being given reservation. I see from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the Hon. Minister is thinking of the spirit of the Constitution but I fear that the reservation is against the spirit of the Constitution; neither according to the spirit nor the letter of the Constitution, is it good."

1 p.m. JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind this House that if the Bill moved by the Hon. Mr. Chandramouli is passed, reservation for Muslims and Christians in the district boards will go and the very valid reason that has been urged by the Government and Hon. Minister is that they are acting according to the spirit of the Constitution. I hope the Law Minister also may kindly make himself available to this House because some of the constitutional pundits like Mr. Muniswami Pillay, Mr. Baig and Mr. Varadachari referred to the Constitution. The Constitution alone seems to be the guiding principle for this Government to bring in this legislation. Sir, I ask the Hon. Minister himself whether it is in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution to have reservation for women and not for Muslims because in the Constitution reservation has been removed both for women and Muslims. But the Hon. Minister comes here and says, 'You do not have it and they will have it'. I cannot understand why the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Muniswami

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Pillay, says in season and out of season that he moved an amendment. I do not know whether that amendment relates to reservation for Harijans and Muslims."

MR. SPEAKER :—" About reservation for Harijans. That is what he said."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I moved an amendment for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes in the Constituent Assembly and it was accepted. It is in the Minority Committee's Report."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" His community and the public will be thankful to him for that. The Hon. Minister says, that the Constitution is guiding the Government in this matter, and he wants to take shelter under the Constitution. It is just like five blind people going and seeing an elephant, each one feeling one part and forming his own impression about the elephant. I would like the Hon. Law Minister and the Hon. Minister for Local Administration to enlighten me how the Constitution allows the reservation being made for women and not for Muslims. I must say, that there must be a method in madness. It removed reservation in the State Legislature and Parliament. But here the spirit of the Constitution is for women also and I do not know how the Government can justify their position and say that even though the Constitution abolished reservation for women in Parliament, they are going to reserve places for them in the district boards. Is this the spirit of the Constitution? If only the House can wait for some time, another Bill will be brought before this House by the Hon. Minister for Local Administration. I mean the Bill relating to the postponement of elections to the Madras Corporation."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Let that Bill come. The hon. Member can speak then."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" Yesterday the hon. Member, Mr. N. S. Varadachari, was giving a lecture on his right and authority to speak on behalf of everybody. I say, he cannot speak on behalf of women, because it is only lady Members like Begum Amiruddin and the late lady Member who represented the Women's Constituency in Madras who alone could speak on behalf of women. The hon. Member, Mr. Varadachari, represents Triplicane and represents only a section of the people of this State. Let not hon. Members speak on behalf of others. It is doubtful whether anybody can speak on behalf of anybody because we were elected five and a half years ago. I know the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Varadachari, was talking tall and dreaming of conditions which are only in his imagination. The Hon. Minister knows the countryside and he has been saying that he represents the countryside more than we, who belong to the cities. I ask, whether ideal conditions exist to-day? The Hon. Minister himself was once the President of a District Board and he has got wider knowledge in these matters. Sir, local administration is the nursery of democracy. It is necessary for democracy that people should be trained there before they

[Sri A. Kaleswara Rao] [30th August 1951]

Administration proposes to give communal representation or separate representation—by whatever name you may call it—to Women, Anglo-Indians and Harijans. It is only the Muslims and Christians who are deprived of their separate representation. I for my part would concede separate representation for Muslims and Christians also for some time. That is necessary in the present state of communal feelings. Of course I do not want to say, communities, sub-communities and those things should be given representation. Leave aside those things. I admit there is at present a sort of caste, sub-caste and sub-community feeling, and we have to wipe that out, and it is the desire of politicians to wipe it out. That will take some time. But what I say now is, I request the Hon. Minister to make provision for separate seats, for separate representation, that is, for separate communal representation both for Muslims and Christians and complete the picture of representation. Sir, it was in 1929-30 that we were asked to give our opinion as to the abolition of nomination. Then, I was consulted also, for I was then Chairman of the Bezvada Municipality. Then we all thought that there should be communal representation for Harijans, Muslims, Christians and Anglo-Indians. I submit the same thing may now be continued for some time more. There is nothing in the Constitution which offends against it. There is nothing in the spirit of the Constitution against it. Of course, the Muslims are asking—and they are right—if the spirit of the Constitution is against separate representation for Muslims and Christians, that objection should hold good to the giving of separate representation to Women, Harijans and Anglo-Indians also. So, I say, allow separate representation for Muslims and Christians. That will be better. That will help all communities to come forward and take part in local administration, which is the foundation for national administration.

"Then, Sir, whatever may be done with regard to that matter, I am in favour of plural-member constituencies, that is, double constituencies, in as many places as possible, so that the minority communities, Muslims, Christians and also even Hindu sub-castes may get representation. Because if there are two seats, to the majority man, a minority man will be tacked on, and that arrangement will give satisfaction to all communities. I say this, not in a bad spirit, but I submit this to Government so that they may reconsider this matter and do whatever is possible in that direction. That is all I have to say, Sir."

*Sri P. KAKKAN:—"கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, கனம் ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபன மந்திரியவர்கள் கொண்டுள்ள இந்த மசோதாவை நான் ஆதரிக்கிறேன். மதிப்புக்குரிய கனம் பேய் அவர்களும், கனம் சலாம் அவர்களும் இந்த மசோதாவானது Constitution-க்கு ஒத்துக் கொள்ளக்கூடியதாக இல்லை என்று சொன்னதைக் கேட்டேன். ஆனால் எந்த நோக்கத்துடன் இந்த மசோதாவைக் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பதை சிந்தனை செய்திருந்தால் நிச்சயமாக இதை அவர்கள் எதிர்த்திருக்கமாட்டார்கள். முஸ்லீம்களுக்கு ஸ்தானங்கள் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டபடியே என்று சொல்லுவதால் இதை அவர்கள் எதிர்க்கின்றார்கள். இன்னும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கும், பெண்களுக்கும் மட்டிலும் இந்த ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களில் ஸ்தானங்கள் ஒதுக்கப்படும் என்றிருப்பதால் அவர்கள் இதை எதிர்க்கின்றார்கள். அவ்விதம் அவர்கள் எதிர்க்கும்பொழுது எதற்காக

[Sri P. Kakkan] [30th August 1951]

இந்த ஸ்தானங்களை ஒதுக்கி இருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை சிந்தித்திருந்தால் இவ்விதம் எதிர்க்கமாட்டார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்கள் பொருளாதாரத்திலும், கல்வித் துறையிலும், சமூகத்துறையிலும் மிகவும் தாழ்ந்த நிலைமையிலிருந்து அவர்கள் வாழ்க்கை நடத்திவருகிறார்கள். அவ்விதம் ஏழை பாட்டாளி மக்களாகிய ஹரிஜனங்கள் இருப்பதால் அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு நன்மையை செய்யும் பொருட்டுத்தான் அங்கங்கே ஸ்தானங்களை ஒதுக்கவேண்டுமென்று வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அங்கங்கே ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஏற்படும் தொல்லைகளை அந்தந்த ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபன President களுக்கு எடுத்துச் சொல்வதற்காகத்தான் இவ்விதம் ஸ்தானங்களை ஒதுக்கவேண்டுமென்று ஒரு திட்டம் வகுத்திருக்கிறது. அவ்விதம் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஒரு நன்மையைச் செய்வதற்குத்தான் இதை செய்திருக்கிறது.

"அரசியல் நிர்ணய சபையில்கூட ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு சட்ட சபைகளிலும் ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களிலும் ஸ்தானங்கள் ஒதுக்கப்படவேண்டுமென்ற நோக்கத்துடன்தான் இதைச் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். நமது மதிப்புக்குரிய மகாத்மா காந்திஜி அவர்கள் கூட தாழ்த்தப்பட்டிருக்கும் ஹரிஜனங்களை ஒரு நல்ல உயர்ந்த நிலைக்குக் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று மனது வைத்து இதை ஏற்படுத்தினார்கள். அத்துடன் வருங்கால அரசியல் தலைவர்களும் இதை சிந்தித்து ஹரிஜனங்களை முன்னுக்குக் கொண்டுவருவதன் நோக்கத்துடன் இதைச் செய்தார்கள். அதையொட்டியே மதிப்புக்குரிய கனம் சர்தார் படேல் அவர்களும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு சட்ட சபைகளிலும் பத்து வருஷங்களுக்கு ஸ்தானங்களை ஒதுக்கவேண்டுமென்றும் முடிவு செய்தார். அதைப் பார்த்து அங்குள்ள முஸ்லீம்களத்தனையும் அவரைப் பாராட்டினார்கள். ஆனால் நம்முடைய மாகாணத்திலுள்ள முஸ்லீம்கள் இதை ஏன் எதிர்க்கிறார்கள் என்பது தெரியவில்லை. அன்று, உண்மையிலேயே பரிமான் V. I. முனிசாமி பிள்ளை அவர்கள் அங்கு இல்லாதிருந்திருந்தால் இவ்விதம் பத்து வருஷங்களுக்கு ஒதுக்கி யிருப்பது என்பதை வந்திருக்காது என்பதை இப்பொழுது இங்கு மத்தியில் சொல்லுகிறேன். கனம் அம்பேத்கார் அவர்கள் பஞ்சாயத்துகளைப்பற்றி அரசியல் திட்டத்தில் சேர்க்கவேண்டியதில்லை என்று சொன்னபோது கனம் பிரகாசம் அவர்கள் பஞ்சாயத்துகளுக்கும் வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார். அதன் பிறகுதான் இம்மாதிரி Constitution-ல் சேர்த்தார்கள். ஆனால் கனம் V. I. முனிசாமி பிள்ளையின் பெரு முயற்சியினால்தான் நமது மதிப்புக்குரிய கனம் படேல் அவர்களும் இதை ஒத்துக்கொண்டு ஏழைபாட்டாளி மக்களாகிய ஹரிஜனங்களின்மேல் கருணை வைத்து இந்த நியாயம் செய்தார்கள் என்பதை அவர்கள் அறிய வேண்டும். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு reservation செய்யப்பட வேண்டும் என்ற நோக்கத்துடன்தான் இவ்விதம் Constitution-ல் வந்திருக்கிறது. ஆகவே ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஒரு நல்ல காரியத்தை செய்யும்பொழுது அதை எதிர்த்துப் பேச வேண்டியதற்கு ஒன்றுமில்லை. Constitution Act Part XVI, articles 330 ஐ யொட்டித்தான் இந்த மசோதா கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு reservation செய்யப்பட வேண்டுமென்றிருப்பதால் அந்த நோக்கத்துடன்தான் இப்பொழுது இந்த மசோதாவைக் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இவ்விதமாக ஒரு நல்ல காரியத்தைச் செய்யும் பொழுது அதற்கு ஏன் இவ்வளவு எதிர்ப்பு இருக்கிறது.

"இன்னும் பார்க்கப் போனால் கிராமங்களில் முஸ்லீம்களும், ஹிந்துக்களும் சேர்ந்து சாவடிகளில் தங்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். ஒரே கிணற்றில் தண்ணீர் எடுத்துக் கொண்டும், ஒரே சாவடியில் தங்கிக் கொண்டும் ஒரே டாடாஸையில் படித்துக்கொண்டுமிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் ஏழை ஹரிஜனங்களை மட்டும் சேர்த்து வைத்துக் கொண்டு உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டுவதில்லை. ஒரே கிணற்றில் தண்ணீர் எடுத்துக்கொள்வதற்கும் அனுமதிப்பதில்லை. ஹிந்துக்களும் முஸ்லீம்களும் ஒன்று சேர்ந்துகொண்டாவிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் ஹரிஜனங்களை மட்டும் ஒதுக்கித்தான் வைக்கின்றார்கள். படிப்பில்லாமல் ஏழை பாட்டாளி மக்கள் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களை உயர்ந்த நிலைக்குக் கொண்டுவருவது ஒரு நல்ல காரியம்தான். அதைத்தான் Constitution-ல் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது Article 15-ல் 4-வது ஷரத்தைச் சேர்க்க ஒரு திருத்தம் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். இந்த சட்டம் செல்லாது என்று ஹைக்கோர்ட்டிற்குப் போனால் அதற்கும் ஒரு திருத்தம் எங்களால் கொண்டுவர முடியும் என்பதை தெரிவித்துக்

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கொள்ளுகிறேன். இவ்விதம் ஒரு நல்ல காரியத்தைச் செய்யும்போது இடையூறுகளாக யாரும் கோர்ட்டிற்குப் போனால் சென்னை அரசாங்கம் மத்திய அரசாங்கத்தை நாடி ஒரு தருத்தமும் செய்யாமலிருக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொண்டு இந்த மசோதாவை நான் ஆதரிக்கிறேன்.”

SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Salam, said that the hon. Member, Mr. Varadachari, could not plead on behalf of women. I say, on behalf of women, I do not agree with this Bill. I say on behalf of women that I do not want this reservation, not only for women, but I go still further and say, I do not agree with reservation of seats for any community. So, Sir, I request, through you, the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Salam, not to plead for women.”

*** SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—**“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I certainly cannot say that I am not in agreement with the Hon. Sri Chandramouli when he says that it is against the spirit of the Constitution to have reservation of seats on a communal basis. For I have always been saying that we should be non-communal, and that there should be equality, no reservation of seats and so on. Sir, all the same when we were discussing the question of delimitation of constituencies we considered how best to give representation to the minorities, who are by the Constitution disabled from competing on communal basis and cannot come out successful in the elections by competing with others on an equal footing. Then, we thought, as a matter of compromise, if we arrange for plural constituencies, we would be giving fair scope for them. If you refer to the discussions on that subject, you will be pleased to find that I was one of those who pleaded for plural constituencies.”

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI :—“ I also pleaded for plural constituencies.”

*** SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—**“ This was done with a view to remove suspicion and diffidence from the minds of minorities. Therefore, Sir, I agree with hon. Members, Mr. Kaleswara Rao and Mr. Salam, who have now proposed that even in local boards and municipalities we may make provision for plural constituencies. I do not think, on principle, the Hon. Minister also, would have any strong objection to this proposal. It is not a question of shutting anybody from coming in, but it is a question of giving a chance to minorities. If that is adopted, it will be possible for me, in my own municipality, to take along with me ‘desirable’ members of the minorities on to the council. Therefore, Sir, I endorse that proposition and recommend it for the serious consideration of the Government.”

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say at the outset, that if the speeches from my side of the House have created any impression that any one of us is against reservation of seats for the Harijans, it is wrong. Sir, nobody said that reservation of seats for the Harijans was not justified. I say, and all my friends here endorse it, that reservation of seats for Harijans is fully justified. At the same time, what my friends have suggested and have said, is, that the reservations for local boards

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may continue for some time more. Sir, the Hon. Minister has been careful in his wording. He has not said that it is against the Constitution; but it is against the spirit of the Constitution. But I say, and what my members are pleading and urging, is, that it is not even against the spirit of the Constitution. What the Constitution wants, as has been pointed out by several members, is unity; unity, in which the claims of every section of the population are satisfied. But under the present circumstances, where, we know, there is so much strong desire for power and place in this State, the minorities are not likely to be represented but are sure to be left out. So, under the circumstances existing in this State, it is proper, in the interests of the country, of the unity of the population and of the nation, to continue this reservation for some time more. We know what is the position of these minorities, when it comes to a question of places for themselves amongst the various sub-sections of the majority community. In such a state of things, the chances of any minority community getting a place are very slender. But under a secular State, every section of the population must be given representation and must be given the means to express its own views on matters concerning civic affairs, which will be the subject-matter dealt with by the local boards. So, for that, it is better, it is salutary and it is in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution to see that willy-nilly some representation to the minority community also is given so that it may be said that no section of the population is left out in the civic bodies. Therefore I say, it is really in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution that we continue this reservation. You know, Sir, the state of affairs in this Province. When the Communal Government Order was being sought to be scrapped through judgment of courts and other things, you know, Sir, what a hue and cry was raised in this State. It was said that the conditions and circumstances existing in this State necessitated the existence of some such arrangement as is envisaged in the Communal Government Order. I submit, Sir, those same conditions necessitate the continuance of reservation in local boards. If that is done, every community will be represented and the members will sit together and work harmoniously, and then the spirit of the Constitution will be realized.”

The House then rose for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

*** DR. D. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—**“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me a chance to speak a few words on this occasion.

“ The representation of minorities has been a very difficult question. From the very beginning I have been against communal segregation or separation. But as experience teaches one, at the present time certain concessions should be given to rectify some mistakes that may arise in attempting an experiment on a very large scale. No doubt, when the communities have given up separate electorates in general elections, it looks strange that they should ask for them in elections on a very limited scale. But there is one thing to be said. The smaller the area, the more the local considerations predominate. Differences become acute so much so that

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even in highly developed western countries which have been used to this kind of elections for centuries where general elections have been successful, elections to district boards or municipalities have not produced the results that one would expect. Therefore, whatever one might say about the propriety of introducing this amendment at the early stages of mass elections, it is still an experiment in the dark. We do not know what is going to happen even in general elections. So, to bank on it is not altogether judicious or safe. There may be some method of circumventing the position that the Government have already taken up, though it looks unwise to go back upon what they have done. I think the difficulties that might arise in the future may be greater than what they have anticipated. It requires a bold man to prophesy what proportion of minorities are going to come in in the general elections. The only way of circumventing the position is, as I said some time ago, to create plural-member constituencies so that, if there is a strong man in a constituency he might be able to help one whose merits may be equally good but to whom the numerical support may be less. When I speak of minorities, I stand not so much for communal minorities; I am more anxious about minorities of ideas and hopes upon which the future of any country, particularly our country, depends. There will be no progress if the views of the minority are not considered. Just because 99 per cent are on one side and 1 per cent on the other side, are the ideas of the 1 per cent minority to be put down perpetually? In the groups that we have already been accustomed to, a majority of four or five have ably trampled down the rights of a great minority. In such a case, is there no remedy? We may forget the communal minorities in the next ten or fifteen years. But what about the minorities of ideas? Gandhiji once told us: 'Throw the burden upon the majority community, the majority community might flout your views for the time-being, but they will be ashamed to do that decade after decade.' Therefore I tell the minorities: 'Rightly or wrongly, our representatives have taken a step. If we are going to suffer, let us suffer. That is the only path open to national progress.' However much the minorities may suffer, the majority will some day realize that it has done a grievous wrong to the minorities and redeem the situation. I am rather depressed about the present situation in the country. Good and able men and good and able women should come to the top—that is the position I stand for. I tell the majority community that it cannot go on all the time riding roughshod over the views of others. There must be democracy not in theory but in practice. That means the majority must learn to compromise and accept the views of minorities. I may be idealistic. Till such a position is established, there will be no satisfaction for a great majority of people. We cannot progress as a democracy unless we recognize and tolerate and somehow incorporate into our administration the views of the minorities."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the speech of the hon. Gentleman, Dr. Ramachandra Rao, was indeed a welcome relief from the speeches that preceded it. If all of us had approached the question in the manner and with the attitude which Dr. Ramachandra Rao adopted, much of the bitterness

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that we consciously or unconsciously created could have been avoided. Some of the speeches preceding the speech of hon. Member Dr. Ramachandra Rao were to the effect that this Bill was an insidious attempt to do something against the Muslim community by the majority community. This Bill affects not only the Muslim minority but also certain other minorities. A good deal of those remarks were irrelevant. It is not possible to answer the desperate raving of a frustrated mentality. It is not as if the Madras Government suddenly felt that the Muslim community was a dangerous community and had a brain wave that the reservation of seats for that community in the district boards should be removed forthwith. I want to give the genesis of this amendment. The question was raised as an All-India question. The Government of India as early as 6th June 1950 wrote to us that their attention had been drawn to the reservation of seats for certain minorities in the local bodies of certain States and considered that as a matter of policy there should be no such reservation except for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Anglo-Indians. To ensure uniformity in respect of this matter in all the States, the Government of India suggested to the Madras and other State Governments to take necessary action to amend the relevant Statutes. This Government accepted the suggestion and sponsored this Bill. That is the genesis of this Amending Bill.

"Coming to the objections to the Bill, it is neither possible, nor desirable or necessary to answer the sentimental objections. It was said that to bolster up their party candidates, the Government were likely to be swayed by considerations of elections. No such consideration weighed with the Government in sponsoring this Bill. As regards the Muslim community which is generally innocent, guileless and uneducated to some extent, the Government have no intention to exclude them from local boards. To make such allegations might be justified in an election propaganda but they are absolutely unnecessary with reference to the consideration of this Bill. As I said, I do not want to answer the sentimental objections.

"Certain Members referred to Article 14 of the Constitution which says that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India and asked whether it was not discrimination to retain the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Anglo-Indians and women, though no actual point of order was raised. I want to refer those hon. Members to the special provisions relating to certain classes contained in Articles 330 to 332."

"The Government of India themselves have found that classes like the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Anglo-Indians do require protection. So, special provisions have been made for the protection of Anglo-Indians, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is not because that the Constitution makers did not know of the existence of the Muslim community and the Christian community or various other communities in this State that they did not include all these communities in that provision. Because they thought that the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Anglo-Indians required

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protection, a specific provision was made. Reservation is made for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in Parliament and in State Legislatures. They said that concessions to Anglo-Indians in matters of education should be continued for ten years without any reduction. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes evidently require more protection than other communities. The Constitution itself has made a distinction between the three communities and the various other communities. In the original Constitution (without the amendment), Article 15 (3) definitely makes a provision in favour of women. It says—

‘Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children.’

Special provision for women and children has been made because they require protection or they might require protection. Therefore, it is the duty of the State to give them protection.”

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—“ For elections or for everything else? ”

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ Article 15 (1) says—

‘The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.’

It does not require mention of election to local bodies, etc. For anything, the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them. In Article 15 (3) it is stated ‘nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children’. When there is already a special provision for women in the Local Boards Act, we have not removed it. We do not think that it is yet time to remove that. The other protection is for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Anglo-Indians. We have removed the reservation of seats provided for Indian Christians and Muslims. It is not because the Constitution demands it, but because the spirit of the Constitution requires it. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, we do not say that it is constitutionally wrong, but that the spirit of the Constitution demands it. The recent amendment to clause (4) of Article 15 of the Constitution says—

‘(4) Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of Article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.’

There is nothing wrong in this. It is not done with any particular animosity towards any particular community. But the spirit of the Constitution demands that we need give protection only to those people to whom the Constitution itself has given some protection. The argument that is advanced that it is all brought forward with the idea of discriminating against particular communities is all the imagination of some people; perhaps their feeling in the matter is imputed to others. This is all I have got to say, Sir.”

* THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I answer certain objections raised by hon. Members I

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would like to place before the House one point. The principle of the Bill is not new. Previously, the District Municipalities Act has been amended on these lines, and the Village Panchayats Act also has been amended on these lines. Now has come the turn of district boards, and hon. Members are already aware of the previous amendments. This very House has passed all those amending Bills. At least to be consistent and uniform, I expected that there would not be any great discussion. Suppose, we do not bring forward this amendment to the District Boards Act, will that be justifiable, I ask? Is it consistent not to have reservations in municipalities and have reservations in district boards? I was very much surprised to see the opposition against this Bill, especially when this very House has passed the previous amending legislation.

“ Certain constitutional issues raised by hon. Members, were answered by my hon. Colleague, Mr. Madhava Menon. Therefore, I do not want to go into those points. But the hon. Member, Mr. Varadachari, raised one objection regarding reservation of seats for women. He said that it was not good in the political sense. It may be his view. I concede that. But I think it is a good civic sense to keep women in these local bodies. It is a good civic and social sense. Unless we have that good social and civic sense, we can never be politically good. I am sure of it. That is why even last time when this subject was raised, I told definitely that I would like more and more ladies coming into the local bodies. I specially want that ladies should come into the local bodies apart from the Constitution. I think it is a good thing. That is why we have not removed what has already been provided for in the Constitution. As regards hon. Members who bring in the communal slogans, I would like to say that this has been talked of every time by the very members who wanted secular State more vehemently than others. They want, at the same time, reservation of seats on religious basis! This I cannot understand. If they do not want a secular State, let them state frankly and openly, ‘we do not want a secular State; we want a theocratic State’, and let them do propaganda if they honestly believe in it. It is no good saying ‘we want a secular State and at the same time we want reservation for Christians and Muslims on religious basis.’ This is not understandable. The very Members say ‘we are not clamouring for these reservations; we care a pin for these things; we are not begging.’ At the same time they say ‘we want reservation.’ It is always contradictory arguments that are brought forward by hon. Members. For instance, the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Salam, made a very good speech. I liked it, though he got excited. He says ‘You have removed all these concessions; all right; but look here, I have come in in spite of my minority; I have become a Member and I have also become the Vice-Chairman in the Municipality.’ At the same time, he does not want to forget the old psychological effect which he had previously. He wants to retain it to remind himself now and then of the past history. But we want to start on a new basis—secular basis. We want to forget the old arrangement. We want to work as citizens of India first and foremost.

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That is why the hon. Member, Mr. Salam, could say to-day 'I was able to come in in spite of a few Muslims, and I was able to come in as the Vice-Chairman.' Then why should he feel funky, Sir? I cannot understand this. When he says that he was bold enough, and that he had won the election, I thought that he would set an example in the matter to other Muslim brethren. The hon. Member, Mr. Hameed Khan, was in the Congress previously, and he was occupying the position of Mayor of the Madras Corporation and other responsible positions, not because that he was a Muslim, but because he was loved and liked by everybody. So, everybody gave him his vote. That was the spirit. But when people like him come here and advance arguments, we do not understand them. That is why I appeal to them that after all this is an amendment that is brought forward in consonance with the previous amending Bills that were passed by this very House. There is nothing wrong in this Bill. I appeal to hon. Members that if such Bills come before this House hereafter, they should appreciate the consistency in the legislations, the spirit of the Government and also the ideal of the nation towards which we want to move.

"Only one word more, and I have done. Hon. Members have raised the point about plural-member constituencies. That is a good suggestion. I do not say that such points should not be raised. It is a very good suggestion which should be considered. I assure hon. Members that I will consider the suggestion, and I will try to see if they could be incorporated. I do not want to prevent any minority or any community coming into the local bodies. On the other hand, I feel this reform is more needed in local bodies than in legislatures and other places where sometimes, enactments may be passed and traditions may be set up. In the local bodies there is nothing about tradition. It is only a civic organization where they have education and other things. That is why I say that we must be bold enough to start these things in local bodies, and make them successful so that our State may flourish as a secular State and as a happy State respecting every individual and citizen. With these words, Sir, I request the House to accept my motion."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

'That the Madras District Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'

The motion was carried.

The Preamble and clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 were put and carried.

* THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Sir, I move—

'That the Madras District Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'

MR. SPEAKER:—"Motion moved—

'That the Madras District Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'

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JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not be speaking on this Bill at this stage but for the remarks that fell from the Hon. Minister Mr. Madhava Menon. Without trying to speak on the issue, he wanted to show himself as a parliamentarian rather than a statesman. I feel very sorry that hon. Members, occupying positions like him, should try to gain an advantage on a point by becoming highly parliamentary instead of acting in a statesmanlike manner. He thought that by saying that we spoke on behalf of the Muslims we were highly communal and, therefore, our arguments should be summarily rejected. I think, Sir, he made a mistake in adopting that method of approach to the question. Not one member on this side referred to the words 'Muslim community' at all. We were all the time speaking about the minorities forgetting that certain minorities did get better consideration. What some of us felt was that if reservation was a bad thing, which would detract from the secularity of the State and pure democratic ideas of State and the desire for creating one nation in the country, it should apply to all the people. I am not prepared to accept any compromise on those ideals. If reservation and separate electorates are poisonous things, they are poisonous for all the people in the country. It is not as if it is a poison for one person and not for another. Well, special consideration has to be shown to members of the Scheduled Castes because they are very backward, but that could have been done in a different way. When certain minorities have been taken into consideration, we thought that logic was in favour of considering also the other minorities who were equally backward. But the Government have not been prepared to agree to it. The question that was engrossing our minds was not so much for asking the Government to show consideration to the Muslims or other minorities or to introduce reservation for them. We pointed out two things. One of them is that the Constitution does not necessitate this change in the Act relating to elections to district boards. The second thing is that a distinction is made between one class of minority and another. Therefore, we brought to the notice of Government that this was not necessary constitutionally. It was said that the Government wanted to adhere to the spirit of the Constitution. We felt that this Bill was not necessary even then because it was within their power to retain the existing things for some time to come.

"Sir, the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration told us that some changes were made in the District Municipalities Act and on that analogy he argued that the same principle might be introduced in the case of local boards also. It may be all right for the sake of argument but I am afraid it is not good logic. It is not necessary, Sir, that it should be introduced in this case. I do not think we were wrong in asking for the retention of the existing things if the Government were prepared to agree to it. I would once again repeat, not only on my own behalf, but on behalf of other hon. Members also that we are not asking for any concession if the Government are not broad-minded enough to consider the need for such reservation. If the Government are really

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anxious to take along with them the representatives of the various minorities in this country, it is their lookout, and if they do not want them, again it is their lookout.

"The hon. Member, Dr. Ramachandra Rao, reminded us of what Mahatma Gandhi said. He told us that Mahatma Gandhi said that the responsibility devolved on the majority community to take the minorities along with them in every good thing such as elections to the Legislatures and local bodies. I do not want to throw that responsibility upon the majority community alone. It is the responsibility of the minorities also. At the same time, I thought that practical sense would prevail if it had any play in all these things. I thought that this was the means by which we could achieve the real object which Mahatma Gandhi had in his mind when he wanted the majority community to take that responsibility. That is all, Sir, that I have to say."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration pleaded for consistency. I wish to state that that is the very thing for which we have been pleading on the floor of this House."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—"Hear, hear."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—"We desire the Government, the Hon. Minister, and the authorities to be consistent in regard to this matter. If they consider reservation as undesirable, it should be deemed to be undesirable for all sections of the people including women. But having regard to practical politics of the times, if it is necessary to retain reservation for certain sections of the people, the point is whether it is not necessary also in regard to certain other sections. We, on this side of the House, are pleading with the Hon. Minister for consistency."

"It is no use dwelling in realms of idealism and indulging in high impracticable philosophy. We are all for the unity of the land. We all wish that there should be harmony and unity throughout the length and breadth of the land. Of course, a time may come when all these reservations and concessions would not at all be necessary, but the question is whether that time has come now. As things stand to-day, we find that the time is not yet ripe. It will take some more years and that is why we have been pleading with the Government not to do away with reservation in regard to certain communities."

"So far as women are concerned, we are not at all anxious or solicitous that the Government should reserve seats for us. I do not know why the Government come forward and say that they desire to promote the interests of women. Sir, this Government of their own accord have come forward to reserve seats for women in the municipalities and local bodies without any women's organization or without any representative of women demanding such reservation, the reason being that the Government see that women may not get due representation on those bodies. The same reasoning applies with reference to other communities also."

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"What we have pleaded for is that the Government should not merely dwell in realms of idealism but should dwell in realms of practical politics, and having regard to present-day conditions, they should view the question in practical light. I am glad that the Hon. Minister, reasonable as he is, has promised to consider the question of plural-member constituencies. Therefore, I hope that he will examine this question and take necessary steps in the matter."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to say much even at this stage but the reply of the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration has disarmed me. He has seen the force of the arguments with regard to the creation of plural-member constituencies and he has conceded that. I hope in the future he will do the needful in this matter."

"Sir, I thought the Hon. the Law Minister would confine himself to the points of law but he performed a plural work. He appreciated the method in which the hon. Member Dr. Ramachandra Rao spoke here but he has not followed that himself. He attributed motives in saying 'desperate ravings of a frustrated mentality'. I do not know to whom it applies. It may apply to this side or that side."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"If the hon. Gentleman thinks that the cap fits him, let him wear it."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—"The question is whom it fits. I have been saying that this Government are not in a position to follow the spirit of the Constitution. The Hon. the Minister for Local Administration has pleaded for consistency. Sir, this Government, conceived on communalism, go on bended knees to the Central Government asking for amendments to the Constitution. For what?"

MR. SPEAKER :—"This is the third reading stage of the Bill. The hon. Member should confine himself to what is given in the Bill."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—"Sir, with regard to admissions to colleges, why have not this Government followed the spirit of the Constitution? It ill-becomes the Hon. Ministers to come and talk about the spirit of the Constitution. Are we to ask the Hon. the Education Minister whether he is following the spirit of the Constitution when he not only goes against the very letter of the Constitution but asks for amendments to perpetuate the communal basis? This Government have followed the communal basis for reservation of seats in colleges. They are not ashamed of it; they go and ask for amendments to the Constitution and say, 'We have not succeeded completely.' Yet, when we get up and ask for plural-member constituencies, they attribute motives. I do not know whom the cap fits because in another matter of vital importance, when one community says, 'I want seats in colleges on merit alone according to the spirit of the Constitution', they say, 'No spirit of Constitution, I want to oppose it, I want to break it, I want to amend it' and have also succeeded

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in their attempt. Now it suits them to say that they want to adhere to the spirit of the Constitution. Well, Sir, we know that clarity in law is not a strong point of the Law Minister. He said that the Central Government had written to them to do certain things and that they had to follow their instructions. In that very letter they have not asked this Government to reserve seats for women. In that very letter they have said, 'Please reserve seats for certain communities and remove the reservation for others.'

Sir, I will come to the other constitutional points later on. First of all, let me deal with the letter of the Central Government instructing this State Government to do certain things. What does that letter say? Let the Hon. the Law Minister re-read it when he gets an opportunity to do so. It only says, 'Please reserve at least some seats for these people and do not reserve for others.' Therefore, the Hon. Minister cannot take shelter under it.

I then go to the other chapter and verse quoted by the Hon. the Law Minister. Sir, nothing prevents the Government from providing certain special facilities for women and children. That is the provision under which this Government want to take shelter. Did the framers of the Constitution mean elections when they said that special facilities should be provided for women and children? If they meant elections, they would not have mentioned 'children'. The Hon. the Law Minister wants to make use of that provision in the matter of elections. It is only common sense that if the framers of the Constitution had meant elections, they would not have referred to children. I do not know what the Hon. Minister is going to say on this matter. If the Hon. the Law Minister does not want to arrogate to himself all the knowledge of law and the exposition of the Constitution, let him write to the Central Government and ask, 'Can we make special facilities for women in the matter of elections?' He can ask whether we can wait for some time. The Hon. the Law Minister might have said so many things about fitting of caps and all that but he has not explained to us what the Constitution says and how the Constitution comes in the way. Let not this side or that side attribute motives. Sir, we only wanted to show how the Government were anxious to proceed with the Bill just now. Because there is still time, we only wanted postponement of it. The Government have postponed the elections to the Corporation. We only wanted the same principle to be adopted here. We wanted plural-member constituencies. But here comes the Hon. the Law Minister attributing motives.

3-15 p.m. The question is that when you are presiding, the Hon. Law Minister has been using harsh language. I leave it to you to decide about it, Sir.

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :— Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion of the Hon. Minister for Local Administration. I welcome the speech of the hon. Leader of the Opposition. He has made it very clear as a parliamentarian and as one who has been responsible for passing the Constitution of India and who has been, for four long years, in Delhi. He has understood the spirit of what was going on in Delhi while the Constitution

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was discussed and that is why he has said that he has nothing to say against the reservation for Scheduled Castes. I do profess the Hindu religion, although I do not belong to the majority community. The disabilities that are noticeable in this State are found throughout the country. Great leaders like the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, were stressing the need for providing special facilities for the Scheduled Castes. I know that a large number of Muslim members were represented in the Constituent Assembly and all those who were responsible for the Constitution have unanimously voted for the Minority Committee's Report presented by the late Sardar Patel. There, the members have clearly said that facilities ought to be given to the Scheduled Caste. When facilities are given to them so that they may be returned to the Parliament and the State Legislatures without difficulty, is it not common sense that they should also be given the same facilities in respect of elections to local boards and municipalities which are the very foundation of a democratic form of administration? Some hon. Member said that according to Article 14 of the Constitution there ought to be no discrimination and Scheduled Castes should not therefore be given any special reservation. But as pointed out by the Hon. the Law Minister, Article 330 of the Constitution says that seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes. I do hope that a day will come when all communities will get united and merge with the majority community.

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :— Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcomed the Bill when it was first introduced and wholeheartedly supported it also. Now I only wish to make a reference to the remarks of the Hon. Minister for Local Administration. I think he missed my point completely. The point is this. He commended me on my political sense but said it was a bad civic proposition to give up reservation for women. Let me argue with him and discuss the point. Let him consider this point calmly and dispassionately, and see whether reservation for women is absolutely necessary. True, there was reservation in the old Act. It was made for this purpose, viz., that Muslims, Christians and others were living in different localities in towns and so on. They were predominant in some particular area and so they said that they must have special reservation. May I ask, whether women are like that? Do they live separately everywhere? I may tell the Hon. Minister that this reservation for women will work great evil. It is here that political manoeuvre plays very many tricks. According to this reservation practice, only such of those women as may be selected by the party in a particular constituency will be able to come in. If, on the other hand, the seats were thrown open for all women to contest and if there was no reservation, I am sure they will get more number of seats. They do not live separately. They do live with families and with their husbands. They do influence their husbands in the same manner as husbands influence their wives. If there was reservation, only those women whom the predominant party wants and who may not be very deserving will get into these local boards. If, on the

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other hand, there was no reservation, there will be competition among the women and only very deserving candidates among them will be able to win the elections. So this is a matter which has sound civic sense as well as political sense."

* THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Sir, having heard the hon. Members, I would like to say one or two points with regard to the remarks made by some hon. Members. A question was raised as to why there should be reservation for women."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"We do not want reservation and the Government are providing for it of their own accord."

* THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"The hon. Lady Member Begum Amiruddin says that women do not want any reservation. But, I never said that women wanted it. Nor have the Government said anywhere like that. If we had said that, it is another matter. I have not provided for reservation for women now. Such reservation is already there and we have not removed it. That is all. As far as women are concerned, it is neither communal, nor religious, nor sectional. They are an integral part. That is why there is nothing in this to which one can object. My hon. Friend Sri Varadachari said that if there was reservation, intelligent women may not be elected. But I would like to tell him that reservation has been made only in certain constituencies and intelligent women from other constituencies are not prevented from competing in the elections and getting into the local boards, municipalities, etc. So even according to the present arrangement, good and intelligent women can come into these local boards and take part in their administration. It is the ambition of the Government that more and more women should take part in local administration and that they should come in large numbers. That is why the Government were reluctant to remove the reservation which was already there."

"There is another point. Several of the hon. Members including hon. Gentleman Janab Salam have misunderstood the spirit behind the speech of my Hon. Colleague, Sri Madhava Menon. That is what I feel. He only explained the Constitution position. The hon. Gentleman Janab Salam says that just as the Government approached the Central Government for amending the Constitution in respect of the Communal Government Order, the Central Government should be approached in this matter also. Some remarks were made about consistency in my speech. I have not referred to this matter. I have referred to the Bills. We have passed two other Bills and so this Bill may be passed. My Hon. Colleague Sri Madhava Menon said that such reservation should not be there on religious grounds. That is the spirit behind his argument. That is why we have removed reservation for Christians, Muslims and Europeans. There are Jains and Buddhists. But no reference has been made about them by those hon. Members who referred to the reservation for Muslims, Christians and

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others. If they are very serious about it, they should have mentioned about them also, even though they may be one per cent or so of the population. What we want is that religion should not be brought into politics. That is the spirit with which we have brought this Bill and I request the hon. Members not to be led away by easy arguments and counter-arguments and attribute motives where there is no room for attributing any motives."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—"I think it applies to both sides."

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"I did not say one side. I request the hon. Members to allow this Bill to be passed into law."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

'That the Madras District Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'

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

(2) THE MADRAS TENANTS AND RYOTS PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1951, and move—

'That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.'

"Sir, in 1946, the question of amending the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929, so as to secure a more equitable adjustment of the rights of the ryots, tenants and the landlords *inter se* and the question of abolition of estates and their conversion into ryotwari were engaging the attention of the Government. At that time, this Tenants and Ryots Protection Act was thought of and brought before the Assembly and it was passed. Subsequently, after the Act was in force for about two years, it was substituted by the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection Ordinance, 1949. Then this Act was also passed and its life was extended till 7th October 1951. Now the Government consider that the life of the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection Act, 1949, as amended by Madras Act VIII of 1950 which expires on 7th October 1951 should be continued for a further period of two years. There are many estates which have not yet been taken over under the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948, and the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection Act has therefore to be continued for some more time. Moreover, in certain cases, stay has been granted under certain writs by the High Court and there are the 1936 inams for which legislation has not yet been passed. The need for continuing this Act arises because it expires on 7th October 1951. So, this Bill has been brought forward to extend its life for a further period of two years."

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MR. SPEAKER:—“ Motion moved—

That the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—“ May I know from the Hon. Minister how many estates have not yet been taken over? ”

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ In supporting this Bill, I would like to observe that so far as the notified estates are concerned, this Act is repealed. In respect of the pending arrears proper steps have not been taken on a mistake that the present Act is still continuing even though the Act is repealed. So far as the Rent Reduction Act is concerned, where rent reduction rate has been applied, I feel no necessity for continuing this Act. But there may be a legal doubt in respect of the estates not yet notified about the applicability without this extension till 1953. Where Rent Reduction Act has not been enforced, this may be applied and arrears of rent may be collected. I may tell the Hon. Minister and the hon. Members of this House that executions and stay proceedings which began in 1945 are kept pending. From that date, no proceedings have been taken in courts. Afterwards, the power of the courts has been ousted. After the notification of the estates, these arrears have not been taken and were left to be collected by the managers of estates in various taluks and sub-taluks.

“ I request Government to take particular care.”

3-30 P.M. MR. SPEAKER:—“ The hon. Member may confine himself to the Bill.”

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ Yes, Sir, I am confining myself to the Bill. This is a very important matter connected with the Bill. The arrears have not been collected. The suits were pending and necessary action has been taken hitherto. That is why I say that in respect of notified estates the Hon. Minister may take notice that the collections have got to be speeded up. With regard to the estates that come under the Abolition Act, the Government have to collect only rents from 1956 and if this is done so many of the pending proceedings will be closed and the suffering landholders will be relieved of their difficulty. I request Government to give consideration for these. I support the Bill for extension up to 1953.”

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“ The hon. Member, Sri Viswanatham, asked how many of the estates had not yet been taken over or notified. Sir, most of the major estates have been taken over. There are a few more cases. They have not been notified due to the orders of the High Court. They are still vested with the landlords or the landowners and then there are what are called inam estates. They have been pending because of the enquiry under section 9. Now it is proposed to publish

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and notify these estates also very soon. But there is one other class of estates to be taken over, namely, the 1936 inam estates to which this Ryots Protection Act applies.

“ Sir, the hon. Member, Sri Natesa Chettiyar, raised certain points about the collection and payment of certain dues to the landlords in notified estates. Sir, as I have said on a previous occasion, we have been taking regular steps to see that the rents are expeditiously collected and paid to the landlords and as I have said before, I get a monthly report as to the progress made in the matter of collection and payment both for the estates covered by the Rent Reduction Act and also for the notified estates that have been taken over. The Government is fully aware of the difficulties of the landlords in this matter and so, Sir, I shall certainly note of what the hon. Member has said in respect of this matter. I have nothing more to say, Sir, in respect of this. I once again move that the Bill be taken into consideration.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“ The question is—

That the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.”

The motion was carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—“ I think the hon. Member, Sri Natesa Chettiyar is not moving his amendment.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ No, Sir.”

Clauses 1 and 2 and the preamble were put and carried.

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“ I beg to move, Sir—

That the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be passed into law.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“ Motion moved—

That the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be passed into law.”

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ Sir, the Hon. Minister said that expeditious action had been taken in respect of collection and payment of rental dues and we were also informed that he had been getting a monthly statement from the districts to that effect. I wish, Sir, that the Hon. Minister is more expeditious in this respect. He must see that necessary steps are taken to increase the establishment charged with this work of collection of rents. If that were done, it would be very helpful to the Collectors in the districts. For instance, in the Salem district, due to want of minor establishment like one or more clerks or typists, inordinate delay has occurred. I am sorry to make this observation. I am making it only for the better execution of the work by the department concerned with the enforcement of this Act. With this request to the Hon. Minister, I support the motion.”

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ I understand what the hon. Member has said.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ The question is—

‘ That the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be passed into law.’ ”

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

(3) THE MADRAS MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1951, and move—

That under rule 116 of the Madras Assembly Rules—

(1) *the concurrence of the Legislative Council be obtained in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 24 members (16 members from the Assembly and 8 members from the Council) and*

(2) *the following members of the Assembly be nominated as members of the Joint Select Committee.*

Sir, I will submit the names of the members later.

“ Sir, at the outset I just want to give a summary of what this Bill means, how it came about, and how a thing of this kind has got to be moved. The history of the whole thing is very interesting to the medical life of this State. I am one of those men very much interested in having medical registration of practitioners in the State and I took a lively interest in canvassing the support of all members of the profession as such. With the co-operation of all the medical men in the State, we brought the Medical Registration Act into being. That Act confined itself to the practitioners of the State and by an Act of Legislature a medical register was opened, the names of all practitioners were registered and the payment of contribution by each member (I think about Rs. 15) was fixed. A Medical Council was formed and in due course it was thought necessary to have a President of the Medical Council. The President had to conduct the proceedings of the Council and also administer the Council according to the Rules laid down therefor by the Council. But it so happened that one of the Presidents of the Council got so much attached to the place and to the institution as such that certain legal difficulties with regard to the working of the Council arose. The Council could not go on because this gentleman, the President of the Council was creating a lot of difficulty in the proper application of the statutes relating to the Council in accordance with law. The matter was taken to the courts and the courts had to give adverse decisions on the proceedings of this Council.

“ So it became necessary to re-state and re-write the whole Registration Act. That is the reason why I am bringing this measure to-day.

“ Now Sir, I shall give a short history of the whole case :

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(1) The Madras Medical Registration Act was passed in 1914 to provide for the registration of medical practitioners in this State. The Act provides for the constitution of a Medical Council consisting of 15 members. For the first five years, the Surgeon-General was the elected member. During the elections to the Council held in 1946, certain allegations of irregularities and malpractices were made against the President. In spite of the instructions from Government, the President declined to go into the allegations and set right the alleged irregularities. Thereupon, a retired District Judge was appointed as Special Officer to conduct an enquiry. After a regular enquiry, the Special Officer submitted a report, which disclosed that several irregularities had in fact been committed in the elections. The Government then appointed the Surgeon-General to exercise the powers of the Council under rule 19 of the rules for subsequent elections to the Council, framed under the Act, for the purpose of remedying the neglect and abuse of its duties and powers by the Council in regard to the elections. The Surgeon-General made the necessary enquiries giving full opportunities to all the parties concerned to state their case and declared the elections to be void and ordered a fresh election. With reference to a new rule framed, the Surgeon-General was also appointed to exercise the powers and duties of the President till such time as fresh elections were held and a new President appointed. Dr. Rama Kamath, the former President, whose election was declared to be void, then filed a suit in the High Court against the Government. The High Court dismissed his suit and upheld the action of the State Government.

(2) In addition to his findings on the election irregularities and malpractices, the Special Officer expressed the view that the Madras Medical Registration Act, 1914, was defective in certain respects and suggested that the Act might be amended suitably. The suggestions made by him and certain other proposals for amendments were examined also taking into account the judgment pronounced by the High Court in the suit filed by Dr. Rama Kamath, the former President of the Council and it was decided that the Act should be amended suitably.

“ I shall now explain some of the important amendments introduced in the Bill. 2-45 p.m.

“ Let me take up the question of extension of franchise to the staffs of the Christian Medical College, Vellore, and other Medical Colleges in the State. As hon. Members are aware, there are several medical institutions in the State to-day. We propose that not only the graduates from the Madras Medical College or the Andhra Medical College but those from other medical colleges also in the State should be entitled to send their representatives. Many new colleges will come into existence and there is already one functioning in Vellore. It is considered desirable to extend the franchise and throw open the three seats to the staffs of the Christian Medical College, Vellore, and of any other Medical

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College that has been opened or may be opened in the State in future. The total number of representatives will not, however, be altered.

"Coming to the appointment of President, Sir, under section 5 (3) of the Act, the President of the Council is to be elected by the members from amongst themselves in the prescribed manner. It is considered desirable to lay down that the President should be a nominated person who will be subject to Government's control. It is accordingly proposed that either the Director of Medical Services, the Deputy Director of Medical Services, or some other person nominated by Government shall be the President of the Council. One of the three members nominated under section 5 (1) (g) of the Act will be nominated as the President. The Vice-President will, however, continue to be elected.

"As regards removal of members of the Council, section 16 (2) of the Act read with the second proviso to Section 13 enables the Council to remove from the register any registered practitioner who is convicted of an offence implying a defect of character or who is guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect. A person whose name is so removed from the register will cease to be a member of the Council under section 8 (4). A person will also cease to be a member on his being declared insolvent by any competent Court. But the removal of the member from the register is an act of the Council and this body is an inappropriate forum where one of its own members is concerned. It is, therefore, considered that there should be a separate provision in the Act for the removal of a member of the Council by Government for gross misconduct, professional or otherwise, or conviction of an offence involving moral turpitude or insolvency. A new section 8-A is accordingly proposed to be introduced.

"I shall now take up the question of appointment of Registrar. Under the present provisions of the Act, the Council has the power to appoint the Registrar and remove him at its pleasure. The Registrar is the chief executive officer of the Council. He has several duties and responsibilities imposed on him under the Act and also the rules, including election work. It is considered desirable that this important functionary should not be allowed to look to the Council for his appointment and continuance, but should have a certain definite status and independence and that the Government should have the power to appoint and remove him, subject to a definite procedure as detailed in the proposed new sections 10 (1) (a), (b) and (1-A).

"Sir, under section 13 (a) of the Act, every person who is for the time being registered under the British Medical Act is entitled to automatic registration in the Madras Medical Register. In view of the present independent status of the country, it is proposed to omit this provision.

"Turning next to renewal fees, I would like to point out that the only source of income for the Council under the Act is the

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levy of registration fee under section 14. Ever since its inception the Council was finding it difficult to balance its budget with the income derived from the registration fee. The Government were, therefore, obliged to go to the rescue of the Council by promising an annual grant not exceeding Rs. 1,000 to meet the deficit. Even with this help, the financial position of the Council did not improve. For conducting the elections in 1946, the Government sanctioned special grants to the Council subject to repayment later on. The Council has not been able to repay till now even a moiety of the loan. Apart from this, the elections held in 1946 disclosed that the Council was not able to maintain an up-to-date register of registered medical practitioners, as the latter were not reporting the changes in their addresses. Proper information about the deaths, if any, of practitioners was also not being received by the Council. With a view to obviating these and also to augmenting the finances of the Council it has been decided that a renewal fee should be levied for registered medical practitioners as in the case of registered dentists and registered pharmacists. The exact amount of the fee and the interval at which, and the period within which, it is to be paid are to be prescribed by the Government.

"Finally, Sir, I come to the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry. Section 22 of the Act gives certain powers to Government to take action in case it is found that the Council has neglected to exercise or has exceeded or abused any power conferred on it. No definite procedure is prescribed for ascertaining or establishing the alleged neglect or excess or abuse of powers by the Council. While commenting on this section, the High Court observed that though the Government was the authority to decide whether there had been neglect, abuse or excess on the part of the Council, it would still be open to the Court to ascertain if there had been a *bona fide* exercise of the powers by the Government under this section. It is considered that this loophole may give room for litigation every time the Government take action under the present section 22. It has, therefore, been decided that the Government should have adequate powers to ascertain the allegations against the Council through an impartial Commission of Enquiry and take necessary action on its advice. It is also considered necessary that the Government should have power to dissolve or supersede the Council if the circumstances warrant and to make interim arrangements. New sections 22-A and 22-B amplify these proposals.

"Sir, the other amendments proposed are consequential and of a minor and verbal nature. At the outset I said that I would give the names of Members of the Assembly who are to be members of the Joint Select Committee later. I would now give their names. They are:

- (1) The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan,
- (2) Dr. P. Govindan Nair,
- (3) „ S. Subramaniam,
- (4) „ M. J. Samuel,

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- (5) Sri K. Shanmugam,
- (6) „ K. P. Kamatchi Chetti,
- (7) „ J. M. Wilson,
- (8) „ R. V. Swaminathan,
- (9) Srimathi C. Ammannar Raja,
- (10) Sri M. A. Easwaran,
- (11) Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin,
- (12) Janab N. Muhammad Anwar,
- (13) Dr. D. S. Ramachandra Rao,
- (14) Sri G. Rajamannar Chetti,
- (15) Janab Abdul Hameed Khan, and
- (16) Sri P. Natesan.' "

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved--

That under Rule 116 of the Madras Assembly Rules :—

(1) the concurrence of the Legislative Council be obtained in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 24 Members to consider the Madras Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1951 (16 Members from the Assembly, and 8 Members from the Council).

(2) the following Members of the Assembly be nominated as Members of the Joint Select Committee :—

- (1) The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan,
- (2) Dr. P. Govindan Nair,
- (3) „ S. Subramaniam,
- (4) „ M. J. Samuel,
- (5) Sri K. Shanmugam,
- (6) „ K. P. Kamatchi Chetti,
- (7) „ J. M. Wilson,
- (8) „ R. V. Swaminathan,
- (9) Srimathi C. Ammannar Raja,
- (10) Sri M. A. Easwaran,
- (11) Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin,
- (12) Janab N. Muhammad Anwar,
- (13) Dr. D. S. Ramachandra Rao,
- (14) Sri G. Rajamannar Chetti,
- (15) Janab Abdul Hameed Khan, and
- (16) Sri P. Natesan.' "

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in opposing the Motion." (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Because you are not a doctor? "

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* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Yes, just for the reason I am not a doctor, I am opposing it. Sir, the judgment referred to by the Hon. the Minister is not before us. He has not placed it on the table of the House. Nor has he placed before us the report of the Special Officer who is stated to have enquired into the famous election dispute. The decision of the court and the report, if they had been placed before us, would have enabled us to see how far the Hon. the Minister was justified in bringing forward such a retrograde measure as this in this year of grace, 1951. We represent a great democracy inaugurated in January 1950. It is a great pity that Congress Government which believe absolutely in principles of democracy should come forward nearly 37 years after the passing of the original Act with a proposal to repeal the provision giving to a statutory body the right of election of its own President. After all that is a great right which the Council has been enjoying already. I am asking whether it is proper, whether it is fair, whether it is desirable to take away this right after nearly four decades of its existence simply because one President created trouble on one occasion. Are we to remove the principle of election simply because there was one election dispute for all these 37 years? The framers of the original Act knew full well their responsibility. After all, lack of agreement among members is not a peculiar feature with the Medical Council alone. Elections take place not only to the Medical Council but to various other bodies like the University, the Bar Council, etc. If there are any disputes there in the matter of election, I would like to know whether the Government would abolish elections altogether. This is not the correct method. On the other hand, the electoral procedure and the rules relating thereto should be changed if any lacuna is found. Instead of trying to remove that lacuna, to come forward with proposals to do away with election itself is wrong in principle and I very emphatically oppose this very retrograde measure. First the Minister deprives the Council of the right of electing their own President. The original Act gives them the power to remove a member of the Council for misconduct or for some reasons provided in the Act. Now the Government want that power too under this Bill. It is a right which the Bar Council also is exercising over its members. The members of the Bar Council—the Inns of England—do not find any difficulty in dealing with disciplinary conduct and professional etiquette of their own members. There has been little or no difficulty in other elected bodies. Elected bodies are quite sensible and quite equal to the occasion in dealing with the disciplinary conduct and professional etiquette of the members. Therefore, there is no question of delicacy unless the Government want simply to take hold of any Bill on any occasion and take more and more powers for themselves from day to day and from hour to hour. That has been the history of legislation for the last four and half years. And now not being content with this, they have come forward with this Bill by which first of all they seek to remove the President and secondly they want power to remove a councillor and thirdly they have taken powers to abolish the Council itself. Then

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they find another difficulty. That is, the High Court steps in. The High Court, it would appear to the Hon. Minister, passed a remark that, notwithstanding some provision, they would still have the right to see whether the action of the Government was within the terms of the Act or not and to look into the propriety and legality of each act. What is the great wrong in the High Court having the right of judicial review—though not the right to go into the merits of the case? The Hon. Minister will be pleased to know what the High Court has been saying in so many writs under the present Constitution where statutory powers are reserved by the Government and where Government say that their decision is final—and the present Government say that their decision is always final—that the High Courts and the Supreme Court will have the power to see whether the Government in coming to that decision followed the procedure laid down by themselves. If the action of the Government was not limited to the provisions of the Act, the High Court would interfere either by a writ of *certiorari* or *mandamus*. The Hon. Minister thinks that the High Court has pointed out a lacuna and therefore wants to retain the provision whereby, the powers of the Court are removed. On the other hand, I feel that the Government should have taken a lesson from what the High Court has said. The High Court has said that the Government should not exceed their powers whatever they may be. Remember in the 1914 legislation certain things were contemplated which are not applicable to the conditions of to-day. All the same, whatever the powers may be that are granted to a Government under a Statute, they must be exercised strictly within the terms of the Act. That the High Court once exercised its powers should not be made an occasion for the Government to come forward and say, 'We shall remove the principle of the election of President. We shall have the right to remove a Councillor and we shall have the right to remove the Council itself. Of course no Court shall have the right to go into our records and give their views. The light of an impartial judge will never be allowed to fall on the secret pages of the Government records.' It is a very strange mind and there is some pathology about it."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"Pathology?"

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Yes, it is pathos now—a member of the legal profession supporting a provision like this always in Bill after Bill excepting in one when the Hon. Minister Sri K. Madhava Menon was caught unawares—in every Act he wants to have the useless provision of excluding the power of the Courts. What I do say is that the final right of the Court to exercise its judicial mind over the question, whether the Government have acted rightly or not, should not be sought to be removed. It is another matter notwithstanding all provisions which the Hon. Minister can devise and the Hon. Law Minister can advise to exclude the final right of the High Court to review, the High Courts and the Supreme Court have still got the right of review under Article 226 of the Constitution. Let not the Government be satisfied with laying down that the decision of the Government shall

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be final and that it shall not be liable to be questioned in any Court of Law. Still the High Court have got certain powers. Though they may not be able to go into the merits of the case, they may still examine whether the Government have conformed to the provisions of the Act. Then, 'why do you complain?' he may ask. I complain because, under these provisions the High Court will not have a chance to look into the merits of the case. In fact that must have been one of the grounds on which the High Court dismissed the petition of that Council, because in the Act there is a provision, which is in the Local Boards Act also, that the decision of the Government shall be final. On the details of the facts the Courts are not going to interfere. I do not want the Government to take shelter under such provisions. In Acts passed a long time ago such a provision might be all right. In a legislation to be passed by a popular legislature like this, a provision like this is absolutely incompatible with every sense—every notion of progress. I submit it has been my fortune to reiterate that position every time a Bill is brought in. Sir, I am troubling you also by repeating that argument every time a Bill is brought in. I may again administer a warning that the jurisdiction of the High Courts over the acts of Government should not be removed. I feel that I am right and I think the hon. Members opposite are absolutely wrong when they say that in order to save the people, in order to save parties from litigation and expenses they are trying to exclude the jurisdiction of Courts. I submit, Sir, these are some of the general considerations. I do not want to go into the details of the Bill which is retrograde. If the House should accept this motion, then it means that they accept the principle underlying the Bill namely that the Government have the right of nominating the President, have the right of removing a Councillor and shutting themselves in as in a zenana from every Court of Law and from the interpretation of their acts by independent tribunals. I oppose this Bill."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think in every country, professions should be organised on a fairly independent basis. Engineers of a country must be organised into an Institute of Engineers and they must lay down standards of professional conduct and etiquette for engineers in general in the country. Similarly lawyers. We have already the Bar Council in India functioning everywhere. For medical men nobody would deny this. In fact they are all bodies of gentlemen who are not anxious to show off their talents one against the other or indulge in petty bickerings. They intend to stand as a body and prescribe certain standards for themselves, in order to do great public service. They themselves commend certain persons and sometimes censure the conduct of others, perhaps, in very rare cases. That is so in every country. It ought to be so in our State also. If the Bar Council, for instance, is presided over by the Advocate-General, it does not mean that the elective principle has been done away with. The Advocate-General is chosen as the Head of the Bar. He can lay down standards. He is so respected by the fellow members of the

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Bar that even if it was thrown open to election, they would choose him. That is how the Bar Council functions. I would like the Medical Council to function in a similar manner and not in the way that it did during the previous years when under one President or Chairman there was a change of at least seven Registrars in the course of one year—if my information is correct. It has been brought to my notice and I have also put interpellations in this very Assembly which elicited the answer that all the irregularities would be looked into and that a report would be called for from the Special Officer appointed for the purpose. I am not bothered about election disputes. What I wish to say is, simply because, the Government comes to nominate the head of a profession who is chosen for his integrity, for his talent and for his character as the head of the Medical Council of the State, it does not mean that the elective principle has been done away with. It is not so, I say with great respect. You ask all the staffs in the Medical Colleges, not merely the three now existing under the present Act but the other Colleges who have sent representatives, and they will be in agreement with my views. We should not really project the principle of election, so as to mean that there must be a fight and a contest everywhere, that people must be provoked into zealous exhibitions of their electioneering skill and all that. That is not how these bodies should be run. In fact, let us confine this practice of frequent contests at least to the small sphere of politics. Politics is not all life. Life is a much wider sphere—the sphere of professional skill, the sphere of public service outside elective bodies and so on, and a large fraction of it consists in the social and economic life of the people which politicians hardly touch at times. If that is well understood, then there should be no difficulty in accepting the amendments proposed to the present Act. Of course I do see that Government will be invested with certain powers, which may not be exercised at all. For instance I frankly do not like the idea of supersession which presumes that wrongful acts will be done. I do not like that the Bar Council should be superseded or even a District Board where it is habitual for us to be quarrelling over petty seats and petty gains. Generally it may be assumed that these powers will be exercised very rarely by the Government if the choice of good men is made and if the profession itself will take care to see that its autonomy is not interfered with. These powers may be rarely exercised or may not be exercised at all. I do not want to speak on the details of the Bill. Let us hope that the Medical Council which is defunct now due to the obstruction of a single person will be revived and brought back to a respectable status. I gladly support the principles of the Bill, the details of which we shall leave for further examination when the Assembly meets after the Select Committee has reported."

4-15 P.M. * DR. D. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am looking at the question not purely from the professional point of view but with regard to its repercussions in the country when once the stand which the Hon. Minister has taken is accepted by

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this House. In every profession we expect a certain code of honour and sense of propriety amongst its members. We have recognized it in the engineering profession; we have recognized it in law. We have to a certain extent recognized it or are in the process of recognizing it in medicine. Unfortunately difficulties crop up which were not anticipated before. Perhaps those who rule particular associations may be driven to a corner for reasons for which they are not responsible. They might have attempted to protect themselves by measures which might have been considered unreasonable or illegal at a later stage. But while I condemn both the crime and the criminal, I hold that that should not be an excuse for removing the privilege which the association has. Government themselves created the body. It is also no doubt a body with certain powers of election. Because one, two or three or even a dozen of them misbehaved, it should not be deemed sufficient reason in a democracy, if that democracy is to be real, to prevent them from electing another person in his place. Mistakes may be made and will be made so long as we are human. We can never be perfect. It is through making mistakes and the privilege and the right of making mistakes, that we learn the lesson of doing things correctly. To deprive an honourable body of medical men and women the privilege of election because some one of their president did not come up to the ideal which either the Government or the High Court would appreciate, that should not be the reason to remove once for all for generations to come, the privilege of election to a body of medical men and women whom the country honours and respects to this day. In fact, Sir, it was the present Minister for Health who tried very hard and wanted to redeem the lower strata of the medical profession and gave it almost overnight a position of respectability and did away with class and caste distinctions amongst medical men and women. That this measure should come from the same gentleman, Sir, is strange. What is wrong if the president misbehaved once or twice or even a dozen times? The Government may punish him or prevent him from being re-elected. But to deprive a body of medical men of the liberty to elect and tell them that they cannot possibly elect their president but that they should be always under a Government nominee, however eminent that man may be, is one of the retrograde steps that could be taken by a modern democratic country if we dare to call ourselves a democratic country at all. While I sympathize with the Government, while I sympathize with the profession also that they got an irresponsible man as the head of the association, the Government could make it impossible for the man to hold that position by other processes, but to deprive the medical association of the right to elect one from amongst their compeers to guide the destinies of the association seems to be rather too much—you cut the nose to spite the face.

"Again, Sir, what are the powers invested in this medical association. Of course I have not been a member of this association. I was content to be a member of the British Medical Association. Without considering my position in it, what is if

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that this association can do. They cannot really do very much except to ventilate their grievances and uphold the professional dignity and honour. If these functions have not been properly done, the Government might pass legislation by which they could be corrected. But the wholesale deprivation of the rights of members of a respectable body because a small minority chose to deviate from the strict path of rectitude would be slipping away from the democratic path, from the right path into the wrong path. While I appreciate the difficulties that might arise occasionally, I appeal to the Hon. Minister to whom the medical profession had looked up to all these years for having raised the professional standards and dignity, not to get angry and prevent altogether their chances of proving themselves as gentlemen in their profession."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, of the number of small amendments now proposed to the original Act, perhaps all the objections raised by hon. Members Sri Viswanatham and Dr. Ramachandra Rao relate only to one amendment, that is the appointment of the President and the Vice-president and the Registrar of the Medical Council. About the necessity or the desirability of the other amendments, I do not think anybody would question. But, Sir, the hon. Member Sri Viswanatham overshoot the mark by criticizing imaginary amendments, things which are not here at all. He said that the Government have taken powers to take away the jurisdiction of the Courts. That was in the original Act itself. If it was a sin it was an original sin and we are not responsible for that. Sir, the hon. Member asked: 'This is an Act which was being worked for over 37 years. Where is the necessity to amend it and all that'. The provision regarding the courts is there for the last 37 years. His objection perhaps might be that our amendment did not go far enough. This provision is in the original Act, under Section 19. My hon. Friend referred to it as though we were introducing a new section. He said that this Government and particularly the Law Minister were anxious to have that particular section. Nobody would have dreamt, I at least would not have dreamt in the wildest of dreams that responsibility for a section enacted 37 years ago would be foisted upon me. That shows that some sort of preconceived notions get in and when they get in it is very difficult to have a clear vision of things. I therefore plead for a little bit of charity and consideration from hon. Members in all these matters when objections are taken."

" Sir, according to the original Act, one was elected president by the members of the staff of the medical college at Madras. At that time when the Act was passed there was only one medical college. Now we have the Stanley Medical College, Visakhapatnam Medical College, the Guntur Medical College and the Vellore Medical College. Like that we have about half a dozen medical colleges. We want to give representation to all these institutions. It is a desirable thing to do and for that there is an

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amendment. Like that every other amendment contained in the Bill is very necessary and desirable. These amendments are necessary from one point of view or another.

" Now, coming to the gravamen of the charge, it was asked: 'When Dr. Rajan was not a Minister, while he was a practising Doctor would he have tolerated an amendment like this?'. I say, Sir, he would not have had an experience like this but for the fact that he had become a Minister. Otherwise he could not have faced or understood a difficulty of this kind. It was stated that we were taking away the principle of election and appointing the Surgeon-General, now designated the Director of Medical Services, as the President. Apart from going into the merits of the case, I may point out that these councils are not like the other ordinary councils. These are councils for professional purposes. I entirely agree with the suggestions of the hon. Member Sri Viswanatham who took the analogy of the Bar Council. The Bar Council has as its President, the Advocate-General."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" He is not a whole time servant of Government."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The Advocate-General is a full time Government servant. All the rules relating to Government servants apply to him also. It is wrong to say that he is not a Government servant. He is a Government servant and he is paid a salary of Rs. 1,500 per month."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Is he a full time Government servant? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister is not yielding."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" He need not yield, Sir. He can answer." (Laughter.)

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" He is a Government servant for all practical purposes. He is a paid officer of the Government. So, there is not much difference. He is the ex-officio President of the Bar Council. The Members of the profession feel proud that the Advocate-General, the technical head of the profession—though he might be a young man comparatively or in intellect not quite up to others in the profession, still as Advocate-General, he is the seniormost lawyer in the State—is the President of their Council. In all probability even in the original Act the Director of Medical Services was not made the President of the Medical Council because 99 per cent of the resolutions passed by the body have to be implemented by the Surgeon-General or the Government. It would be awkward if the Surgeon-General were to be President and pass a certain resolution which he has to implement. That might have been the reason why he was not made the President. 'But can one swallow make a summer', asked the hon. Member, Sri Viswanatham. He said: 'One instance of one President misbehaving, is it a ground for

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assuming that election is no good and that the President should be nominated? That is the ground because other people have not misbehaved before and we had no occasion to know what the consequences would be if a President misbehaved. Luckily perhaps for the Medical Council they had no occasion to get a President who misbehaved in the way in which this President behaved. What happened was this. An election was conducted for the Medical Council. Eight or ten members put in an election petition disputing the validity of the election and alleging various malpractices in the conduct of the election. The election officer was the President. Every person concerned in the conduct of the election is appointed by the President. He is to receive the nomination papers and conduct and announce the results of the election. Excluding these members, all the others put in an election petition. The President did not care for the petition at all and rejected it without furnishing any reason. Then they came with a petition to Government. Government directed the President to conduct an enquiry into the various allegations of malpractices in the conduct of the election referred to in the petition. He refused to conduct the enquiry. We looked into the Act to see whether we could do anything in the matter and asked him to send the papers to Government. Luckily for Government he submitted the papers to Government. On enquiry it was found that it was a glaring case where malpractices were adopted in the conduct of the elections. We set aside the election and asked the President to resign. He would not resign. The rules were rather not definite. We were not sure whether Government had any power at all in the matter. We could not do anything. Therefore we appointed a District Judge to go into the question. The papers were sent to him, and he was asked to say whether there had been a misconduct in the election. The President of the Council dismissed the Registrar and would not hand over any papers and would not even appear before the Judge or give him any papers. Luckily, I again use the word 'luckily', the Government had the papers because they were handed over to the Government and they were presented to the Special Officer to conduct the inquiry with the evidence available. The President non-co-operated and said that the election should not be set aside. The Government then consulted the Advocate-General who said that we had the power under the existing Act and so we asked the Surgeon-General to take charge of the office of President, conduct an inquiry and uphold or set aside the election as the case may be. He conducted an inquiry and disposed of the matter. But the President appealed to the High Court that the Government had no power and the High Court too upheld that the Government had the power."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Did not the High Court give any writ? "

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, the findings of the Judge and other connected papers will be all made available to the Select Committee. We would have placed all those papers before the House, but they are rather voluminous. So, all those

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papers will be placed before the Select Committee and the members also. What the Hon. the Minister for Health has now proposed is that this Bill may be referred to a Select Committee.

" Sir, it was asked whether we found out the lacuna. It is very difficult to bring forward this amending Bill unless the lacuna is found out. We have now added new sub-clause (1) (e) to clause 5 which says—

" (e) three members nominated by the State Government of whom one shall be either the Director of Medical Services, Madras or the Deputy Director of Medical Services, Madras."

Sir, the lacuna was pointed out by the High Court as also by our Legal Department. Because it was raised that we had no power to order an inquiry, we have now introduced new section 22-A which reads—

" 22-A. (1) In every case mentioned in Section 22, the State Government shall have power, whether or not they have already taken action under that section, to refer the particulars of any neglect, excess or abuse of powers referred to in that section to a Commission of Inquiry consisting of three persons appointed by the State Government, of whom one (who shall be its Chairman) shall be a person who is, or has been, or is qualified to be appointed as, a Judge of the High Court, and such Commission shall proceed to inquire in a summary manner and to report to the State Government as to the truth of the particulars referred to it, and in case of any such neglect, excess or abuse of powers being found by the Commission to have been established, the Commission shall recommend the remedies, if any, which are, in its opinion, necessary."

Sir, we had not this power before. And this was the lacuna before. So, we now propose to have the power to appoint a Commission of Inquiry. I do not think that there could be anything more democratic than this amendment.

" Sir, there were objections that election is replaced by nomination. As I said already, it all depends on the way in which we think about this Council. It is a registered Medical Council and all its members are members of the medical profession only. In the same way as the Advocate-General being the Head of the Bar Council, the Director of Medical Services is really the head of the profession, whether he is a practising medical man or not. It has been the tradition all through that the Surgeon-General has been more or less accepted as the head of the profession. So, there is nothing derogatory or wrong in making the Director of Medical Services the President of the Medical Council."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, I thought that my Bill would not be delayed in the House by any consideration which would make me anxious about it. First of all, let me repudiate the charge that we had proposed to take away or diminish the powers of the Medical Council. The election by the registered graduates who are entitled to vote is there. The Council comes into being. Let me here and now say what this Medical Council is. The Medical Council is a Council composed of medical men. What is the Council for? Sir, medical men have got a registration of their own. They have got the Medical Registration Act and there are certain certificates to be produced before the Registrar. When this Council was brought into being, the idea was to ennoble and raise

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the character of, the medical profession. That was the object in view. The Council gives certificates to its members by which they can practise anywhere. The Medical Associations and the medical qualifications empower a doctor to issue certificates and so on. All these things are under the purview of the Medical Council which is more or less the guardian of the profession. The medical practitioners must first of all register themselves in the Council and their names automatically get into the electoral roll of the Council and they are entitled to vote. Therefore, it is a quasi-judicial body which takes note of the conduct of the medical practitioners in the discharge of their duties. That is really what the Medical Council is meant for.

"Now, Sir, I may mention that the Medical Council did not exist for a number of years simply because the President did not sit there and began to play ducks and drakes with the Council and he killed it actually. He said, 'This Council shall not exist.' He is still there sitting quiet. The result was that the Medical Council was killed by one of its own members. It is a disgrace to the medical profession and to the State that the Medical Council that was started by the State itself should be killed by one individual medical man. He in fact made it impossible for the Council to exist. That is what has happened. It was at that stage that I took up the question. We wanted the Medical Council to exist. The Medical Council has got its own status. Law recognizes it and courts recognize it. Every medical man should get his name registered in the Council and the Council gives a certificate. It is a source of income and it is a source of responsibility and status as far as the medical profession is concerned. It was for these reasons that we wanted the Medical Council to exist. If the Medical Council does not exist merely by the misconduct of its own President, it is a thing which no Government will allow. Therefore, we took up the question of amending the Medical Registration Act and decided to amend the Act. The Medical Council did not exist simply because a non-official, a very clever man, no doubt, wanted to become the President and after he became President it was his endeavour to see that nobody else should become President after him. Therefore, we wanted to revive the activities of the Council and for that we have to keep the Council alive. It is only for that we have brought forward this Bill. I want the House to understand that it is in the interests of the public at large that this Council should be revived. I am sorry my hon. Friend, Dr. Ramachandra Rao, did not view this in the way I wanted to present it. The Council has certain powers and privileges under the Registration Act and it has a status of its own. The State is interested in seeing that these powers are used properly. That is the idea behind this Bill. Therefore, I as a Member of the Government have taken on myself the responsibility of piloting this Bill through both the Houses. This has become a public scandal and appeared in the Press also. Everybody talks about the Medical Council. Therefore, we decided that we must have a man who can run the show and that that man must be either the Director of Medical Services

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or the Deputy Director of Medical Services who are connected with the Government, in the same way as the Advocate-General is the head of the Bar Council, so that the Government may be watching the Council's conduct. The principle is to resuscitate the Medical Council which will work in the public interest and public welfare. We started the Council. But, unfortunately, some people thought it inconvenient to carry on their nefarious activities and they murdered it statutorily. The result is there is no Medical Council in Madras. Therefore, we found it necessary to take it over and resuscitate it for the continued furtherance of its legal duties."

MR. SPEAKER :—"The question is—

(1) That, under rule 116 of the Madras Assembly Rules, the concurrence of the Legislative Council be obtained in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 24 members to consider the Madras Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1951 (16 members from the Assembly and 8 members from the Council).

4-45
p.m.

(2) The following members of the Assembly be nominated as members of the Joint Select Committee :—

- (1) The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan.
- (2) Dr. P. Govindan Nair.
- (3) Dr. S. Subramaniam.
- (4) Dr. M. J. Samuel.
- (5) Sri K. Shanmugam.
- (6) Sri K. P. Kamatchi Chetty.
- (7) Sri J. M. Wilson.
- (8) Sri R. V. Swaminathan.
- (9) Srimathi Ammannar Raja.
- (10) Sri M. A. Easwaran.
- (11) Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin.
- (12) Janab N. Muhammad Anwar.
- (13) Dr. D. S. Ramachandra Rao.
- (14) Sri G. Rajamannar Chetti.
- (15) Janab Abdul Hameed Khan, and
- (16) Sri P. Natesan."

The motion was carried.

VI.—MOTION UNDER RULE 22 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES.

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move under rule 22 of the Assembly Rules—

'That the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be now taken up before the next item on the Agenda, viz., the Madras City Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1951.'"

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" As there are only a few minutes left, we shall adjourn for the day."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" As I am in agreement with my hon. Friend, Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillay, that this Bill may also be referred to a Select Committee, there may not be much difficulty."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

' That the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken up before the next item on the Agenda, viz., The Madras City Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1951.' "

The motion was carried.

V.—GOVERNMENT BILLS—cont.

(4) THE MADRAS FOREST (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1951, and move—

' That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.' "

" Sir, yesterday, my Hon. Colleague, the Revenue Minister, moved for the extension of the period of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949 (Madras Act XXVII of 1949), by two years and I think he mentioned that the extension has become necessary because the comprehensive legislation that we have been contemplating regarding amendments to the Madras Forest Act was not ready. This temporary Act, the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, was being extended because its provisions have to be made permanent and included in the comprehensive amendments to the Madras Forest Act. When this temporary measure was passed, my hon. Friend, Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillay, said that the proposed comprehensive amendments to the Madras Forest Act may be referred to a Select Committee. I think, Sir, since very important changes are being introduced in the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1951, it is better to discuss it in a Select Committee. The temporary Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill, 1951, was passed because it may not be possible to bring the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1951, into force before it expired.

" The question of amending the Madras Forest Act, 1882 (Act V of 1882), has been engaging the attention of the Government for a very long time. In 1939, the Chief Conservator of Forests was asked to refer the matter to a Committee of selected Forest Officers and to prepare a comprehensive memorandum specifying the amendments to the Act which the Committee might consider necessary. The recommendations of the Committee were carefully examined and a Bill embodying such of the recommendations as were accepted

* Published in the Fort St. George Gazette Extraordinary, dated 14th August 1951.

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by the Government together with a Statement of Objects and Reasons and Notes on Clauses was published in February 1944 for eliciting public opinion and time was allowed till the 9th March 1944 for the receipt of objections and suggestions. Representations were received from certain persons, containing suggestions and criticisms. They were considered in consultation with the Chief Conservator of Forests and also with the Advocate-General in respect of certain provisions included in the Bill.

" The subject was discussed by the Government and it was decided that amendments may be made to the Madras Forest Act, 1882, in pursuance of the proposals of the Chief Conservator of Forests. The draft Bill and the Statement of Objects and Reasons have been prepared and circulated to the Members. Apart from the Statement of Objects and Reasons, notes on the necessity for amending each clause have also been supplied with the draft Bill. I, therefore, think Sir, that I need not go into the details now.

" The most important object of the amendments is the preservation of private forests by controlling their exploitation and by prescribing working plans for them.

" Section 29 of the Madras Forest Act, as it stands at present, empowers the Government to regulate or prohibit, among other things, the firing or clearing of vegetation in any privately owned forest or waste land if, in their opinion, it is necessary to do so for any of the purposes mentioned in that section. The Act, however, provides no effective remedy, if the owner of such forest or land disobeys the directions of the Government. In such cases, the Government have either to take the forest or land on lease from its owner or to acquire it under the Land Acquisition Act. The taking of a lease from an unwilling or a recalcitrant owner is not an easy or a satisfactory remedy while recourse to the Land Acquisition Act is often found impracticable by reason of the enormous cost involved. It is, therefore, proposed to amend the Madras Forest Act, 1882, on the lines of section 36 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, so as to enable the Government, in case the owner neglects to carry out or disobeys the directions of the Government under section 29 of the Madras Forest Act, to place the forest or land concerned under the control and management of an officer appointed by the Government. The amendments also provide for the acquisition of the private forest by the Government, after due publication of their intention to do so. Where the forest or land is taken on lease by the Government, the amendments provide for payment to the owner of such forest or land compensation calculated on the average net revenue as estimated by the Conservator of Forests in consultation with the Collector of the district concerned plus 5 per cent thereof by way of solatium. In the event of an outright acquisition, the compensation will be calculated at fifteen times the annual compensation payable for lease as specified above. Section 30 of the Act as proposed to be substituted by a new section provides for this.

" In Bengal, the Government have taken power to enforce the preparation of working plan for private forests and to carry out the

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prescriptions of such plans. It is proposed to include similar provisions in the Madras Forest Act, 1882, also. The new Chapter V-A proposed to be included in the Madras Forest Act provides for this.

"It has also been proposed to incorporate in the Madras Forest Act, 1882, all the provisions of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1946. Necessary provision for this has been made in the draft Bill.

"It has also been proposed to make provision in the Madras Forest Act, 1882, for the levy of a cess on timber and fuel removed from private forests in order to cover the cost of the staff appointed by the Government for administering the provisions of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1946, proposed to be included in the Madras Forest Act. It is proposed to levy a maximum fee of two annas per cubic foot of timber and eight annas per ton of fuel. Necessary provisions in this regard has been made in clause 13 of the draft Bill.

"The extra expenditure on account of the amendments proposed to be made has been estimated at Rs. 5 lakhs approximately.

"These, in general, are the provisions of the Bill."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Motion moved—

That the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the amendment that stands in my name, viz.—

That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members of this House."

"I shall give the names later. Sir, the Hon. Minister for Law has explained in detail why it was necessary to amend the Madras Forest Act of 1882. He said that the Bill that is on the anvil of this House is a comprehensive one; but going through the various amendments that have been proposed in this Bill I do not think it is a comprehensive one. Sir, for many years, the Forest Act has been before the public and the preservation of forests has not been to the extent that was aimed at. We, in this State, have only about 12½ per cent of forests while many other States in India have a higher percentage of forest area. This smallness of forest area is a great handicap to the progress of agriculture and also to meet the fuel and other needs of the inhabitants of this State. Sir, coming as I do from a hilly district consisting of a greater portion of forests, I may say, Sir, there have been many instances where the law was not so strict that it was possible for the general public to enter into the forests and devastate them in a manner ruinous to the forests themselves. For instance, Sir, I may say, a portion of one of the beautiful spots in the Nilgiris, known as the Wenlock Downs is proposed to be given away by the Government due to political pressure. This has created not only a great agitation in the minds of the public but has also come to the notice of the Hon. Minister who came to the Nilgiris. I know even the head of the administration in our State had to take note of what has happened in the Nilgiris. Apart from

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this, Sir, due to the Grow More Food activities, thousands of acres have been given on lease which has brought ruination not only to forest land but also to the land coming under the Revenue Department. I know, Sir, Government have been contemplating to bring certain legislation and rules to arrest soil erosion and also to protect the forests. The various amendments proposed do not cover any measures to arrest these mean activities, as I may call them. I find that the Government has brought an amendment in section 23 (1) whereby they want to give power to the people living in areas contiguous to forests to act as watchmen to bring forest offences to the notice of the officers concerned or the police. This is a very vital provision and I welcome it, Sir, as the ordinary man does not understand the value of the forests. In the Nilgiris district, the hill tribes, I mean the Badagas, have been allowed to take free fuel on an annual permit system but this permit system is not extended to other communities. Sir, in days gone by, the Badagas were picking only dead fuel but later on due to the demand for more fuel consequent on the increase in population there has been a greater denudation of forests. I know, Sir, as a matter of fact, the rules of the Forest department are not so strict and they are so elastic that the various officers are not able to guard or protect the forests in the manner aimed at in the Act. There are so many other causes also which it is not possible for me to explain in the short time at my disposal. I feel, Sir, that, if the Bill goes before a Select Committee, the various amendments proposed by the Hon. the Minister for Law can be carefully gone through and a fair decision arrived at. It is with this view, Sir, I move the amendment standing in my name."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may continue his speech to-morrow. I now adjourn the House."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 o'clock on Friday, the 31st August 1951.

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(3) what is the period to be allowed to those who have not qualified themselves in any craft, to get qualified in it;

(4) whether increments should be allowed to teachers who have not qualified themselves in any craft;

(5) what should be the scale of pay to be allowed to a teacher who does not possess the craft qualification if one has to be appointed now;

(6) whether short courses in each of the crafts should be conducted, and if so, whom and also who should hold the examination to decide whether the teachers have acquired the necessary skill in the crafts.

3. The points raised above are explained below :—

(1) *above*.—The various 'crafts' in which teachers should get qualified are—

I. *Elementary grade teachers*.—(i) Spinning (according to the syllabus and test prescribed by the Director of Public Instruction);

(ii) First Aid or Home Nursing Training as organized under the St. John Ambulance Association or British Red Cross Society;

(iii) Needlework and Dress-making, Embroidery, Lace-making, Handloom-weaving, Agriculture, Indian Music, Freehand outline drawing or Painting or Design, Geometrical Drawing or Engraving or Modelling, Government Technical Examination Certificate of the lower grade;

(iv) Retraining in Basic Education at the centres organized by the Department.

II. *Secondary and Collegiate grade teachers*.—As for elementary grade teachers or—

(i) Tailoring or Book-binding (Government Technical Examination certificate of the lower grade);

(ii) Citizenship Training for teachers;

(iii) Home Craft Training (conducted for women teachers);

(iv) Training in a Regular Army unit for commission into N.C.C.

(v) Course of training in Museum Technique;

(vi) Training in U.T.C. or U.O.T.C.

III. *For all grades*.—Persons possessing the following certificates issued by the Boys' Scout Association, the Hindustan Scout Association and the Junior Red Cross Association will be considered as qualified in craft :—

(a) Scout Masters;

(b) Cub Masters;

(c) Rover Leaders;

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(d) Blue Bird Bul Bul Block Leaders;

(e) Girl Scout or Girl Guide Captains or Range Scout Leader;

(f) Junior Red Cross Counsellors.

(2) *above*.—Teachers of elementary, secondary and collegiate grades in Government schools and schools under local bodies, and all Deputy Inspectors (Senior and Junior) shall possess qualification in one or other of the crafts.

(3) *above*.—Existing incumbents who are in permanent service, except those who have not elected the revised scales of pay and those who have completed their probation, shall acquire qualification in craft within a period of two years from the date of this order. Existing incumbents who are probationers shall acquire qualification in craft before the expiry of the period of probation or within two years from the date of this order whichever is later. Persons who have been trained under the existing ordinary training schemes, when newly appointed, shall acquire the qualification during the period of their probation. They shall be declared to have satisfactorily completed the period of probation only after they acquire the qualification. Persons who have been trained in Basic Training Schools and under any scheme of training in which craft training is an integral part of training need not be required to qualify in craft separately. This exemption applies also to persons who have undergone the course in Manual Training in the Teachers' College, Saidapet, and who hold certificates issued by the Director of Public Instruction in the following subjects :—

(i) Manual Training (Wood work) Craft,

(ii) Art Master Training (Engraving) Craft,

(iii) Art Master (Wood-Carving) Craft.

They now direct that persons who have undergone the Adult School Teachers' Training also need not be required to qualify themselves in craft separately.

(4) *above*.—If teachers or inspecting officers do not acquire qualification in any craft within two years from the date of this order, their increment shall be postponed until they acquire the qualification, but without cumulative effect.

(5) *above*.—Persons who do not possess qualification in craft shall be started on the minimum of the time scale of pay and shall not be allowed to draw increments until they acquire the qualification.

(6) *above*.—The Director of Public Instruction shall arrange for short courses of training in Citizenship and Handicraft at select centres and also conduct examinations. The word "Handicraft" applies to all crafts for which there is no provision for training and not to "Home craft" alone.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 54 asked by Sri V. I. Mufi-swami Pillay (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa) at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 30th August 1951, page 438 supra.]

(b) Cost of maintenance of the workshop for the last three years—

	1948-49.			1949-50.			1950-51.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Establishment charges including pension and leave salary contribution ..	13,472	0	0	18,304	15	0	29,716	1	0
Audit Fee ..	1,050	0	0	1,120	0	0	1,120	0	0
Interest on Capital ..	4,148	1	0	7,888	13	0	9,557	0	5
Depreciation on machinery ..	2,138	0	7	6,383	8	11	7,306	12	0
Electric charges, postage and stationery, Corporation tax, telephone charges, etc.	5,087	7	0	7,056	10	1	6,684	1	0
Workshops General maintenance charges, wages of menials, loose tools, etc.	7,741	12	9	13,896	2	1	10,858	9	3
Total, Charge ..	33,637	5	4	54,640	1	1	65,242	7	8
Production cost—									
Material ..	93,867	3	8	1,29,011	1	3	99,759	11	5
Labour (wages including allowance of workmen) ..	32,953	4	8	44,819	11	4	46,048	6	0
Turnover ..	1,98,720	5	9	2,23,249	1	9	2,99,000	0	0
Net profit ..	23,280	2	8	31,321	7	6			

Pro forma
accounts under
preparation.

(c) The workshop manufactures hand boring sets and tools for putting down borings for tapping underground water-supplies for drinking, domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes. Repairs and renewals of the various tools of the power and hand boring sets are undertaken and executed mainly for the Engineering Branch of the Department of Industries and Commerce. Repairs to the power drills and their boilers maintained by the Industries department are also undertaken. This workshop also manufactures hand operated water pumps for drinking purposes. Pinto chekkus for extracting oils from oil seeds and undertake sundry repairs work to the water pumps of other Government departments and private parties. In recent years the services of this workshop have been fully utilized for manufacturing additional boring sets in connection with the Government schemes of "Grow More Food" and development of intensive cultivation in the districts and of appliances required for cottage and small scale industries. The workshop also entertains L.M.E. course students of the Polytechnic as apprentices for undergoing practical training by giving them necessary facilities.

APPENDIX

D.V.O

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 58 asked by Janab Mahin Sohamnad at the meeting the Legislative Assembly held on 30th August 1951, pages 440-441 supra.]

Copy of G.O. No. 2392, Education, dated 22nd July 1949, as subsequently amended.

[SUBJECT.—Education—Teachers under Government and local bodies—Payment of craft allowance—Further orders—passed.]

READ—the following papers :—

G.O. No. 975, Education, dated 10th May 1947.

G.O. No. 1082, Education, dated 21st May 1947.

G.O. No. 1154, Education, dated 5th June 1947.

G.O. No. 517, Finance, dated 9th July 1947.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 6th September 1947, No. 2200 C-5/47.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 12th January 1948, No. 2686 G-2/47.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 26th July 1948, No. 166 K-1/48.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 31st March and 3rd July 1949.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 13th September 1948, No. Nil.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 14th October 1948, No. 436 B-1/47.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 6th January 1949, No. 2546 B-1/48.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 24th January 1949, No. 2551 B-1/48.

Order—No. 2392, Education, dated 22nd July 1949.

In connexion with the revision of pay of teachers in Government and local body schools a special allowance called 'craft allowance' in addition to the time-scales of pay was first sanctioned by Government. Subsequently it was decided that the craft allowance need not be paid separately but that it should be merged in the time-scales of pay. It was also laid down that teachers who had not qualified themselves in any of the crafts should acquire the qualification within a period of two years.

2. Various doubts have been raised as to—

(1) what the crafts are in which teachers should qualify themselves;

(2) whether all teachers including those in the Inspectorate should qualify themselves in any of the crafts;

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4. The Government trust that the Director will provide necessary facilities for training in craft so that within two years all teachers are given the opportunity to qualify in one craft or other, so that they cannot plead want of facilities as an excuse for failure to qualify in craft.

5. The orders above will not apply to teachers in aided elementary and secondary schools including teachers in panchayat schools. It is desirable that such teachers also should possess the qualification. It need not be insisted upon in the case of qualified teachers already in aided institutions. But managements should be encouraged to recruit in their institutions only persons who possess qualification in craft as well.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 31st August 1951.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Number of handlooms in the State.

* 60 Q.—SRI A. J. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of handlooms in our State since the issue of the informal ration cards throughout the State; and

(b) whether the Government propose to insist on the Central Government to allot bales of yarn to this State on the strength of looms census of 1951?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—“(a) It is reported that according to the census taken recently, there are 841,140 handlooms in this State. This figure is considered to be somewhat high and instructions have been issued to all Collectors to conduct a vigorous check of the loom lists to eliminate bogus looms.

“(b) This Government have already addressed the Government of India to revise their allocations to this State with reference to the census figures.”

SRI A. J. ARUNACHALAM:—“The Hon. Minister has stated that the total number of looms in the State is 841,140, but we are getting yarn on the basis of the 1945 figures, i.e., for 5 lakhs of looms. During the last seven years, there has been an increase of over 3½ lakhs of looms, and the allotment of yarn has not been revised and we are getting yarn only on the 1945 basis. There is therefore disparity in the yarn distribution from district to district; and in order to avoid this, will the Government immediately take necessary steps to see that the yarn distribution is equally done in all the districts to the weavers?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—“That will be considered. The distribution will be made according to the looms census that we have got.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“In view of the various and conflicting estimates of these looms, may I know what the reasons are for such a great disparity between the Government estimates, the committees' estimates and the weavers' estimates?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—“The Government have not made any estimate; the estimate is of the

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committees and the Government are now checking it up; Collectors have been instructed to make a check-up and the actual figures will be made available shortly."

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID:—"What is the use of giving instructions to Collectors for checking up the looms without giving them the necessary staff to do the work?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"I think they have got enough staff, they have the Textile Inspectors and the Assistant Textile Officers under their control, and they will do this work."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—"May I know whether the number given by the Hon. Minister includes looms engaged in khadi-weaving? If so, how many are engaged in khadi-weaving?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"I have no information."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that many looms have gone out of work on account of insufficient supply of yarn to them, and if so, whether they are included in or excluded from the figure given and also what are the measures taken by the Government to find out the exact number of looms that are entitled to yarn?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"Evidently, bogus looms are included in the total number; if not, it won't come to this large figure of 8 lakhs odd."

SRI S. C. BALAKRISHNAN:—"Sir, is it a fact that people who are not really taking to weaving, obtain yarn cards and sell their yarn in the blackmarket? If so, may I know what action is being taken by the Government to check this illegal business, so that the real weavers may get sufficient yarn?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"As I said already, the Collectors have been instructed to have the figures checked."

* SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government are aware that, on account of the scarcity of yarn, ghost looms have come into being, so that the weaver may obtain a quota on all the looms, whether working or not? What steps are being taken by the Government to see that these ghost looms are detected and dealt with suitably?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"As I have already explained, they are being checked up by the textile staff."

JANAB N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR:—"The Hon. Minister disclosed that there are bogus looms. Will he assure this House that the interests of *bona fide* weavers will not be injured by the delays caused by this Government in checking up the bogus looms?"

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THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"I can only say that we will take all steps to see that the real looms get the yarn."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister has received any information from the Provincial Handloom Weavers' Society which is interested in maintaining all these statistics as far as possible correctly and up-to-date?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"I did not have any information from them about the looms."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"Have the Government received any interim report with regard to the number of bogus looms in all parts of the State?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"We are getting figures from the Collectors now and then. I do not have the consolidated figures just now."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Why not the Government enforce the registration of all looms and punish those who do not conform to the registration rules?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"The registration of looms also is under the consideration of Government."

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID:—"The Hon. Minister said that he has abolished some of the Yarn Advisory Committees. That means that by abolishing these advisory committees, he has accepted the fact that informal rationing of yarn in this State has failed. Therefore, will the Government undertake statutory rationing immediately in order to safeguard the interests of *bona fide* weavers in the State?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"I am not prepared to accept the statement made by the hon. Member that the distribution has failed. It is not true to say that the department is not doing its best to safeguard the interests of the weavers."

SRI A. J. ARUNACHALAM:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of introducing statutory rationing instead of informal rationing?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"That is not possible now."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"In view of the statement of the Hon. Minister that informal rationing has not failed, may I ask him what is the quantity of yarn supplied to all looms, how many looms have been so supplied last month and whether there is any data available about all these?"

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—"The yarn is distributed on the statistical basis of looms. I have not got the actual figures of the quantity of yarn supplied."

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Industrial and commercial museums.

* 61 Q.—SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa): Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of industrial and commercial museums in the State;

(b) their location;

(c) whether they have been given any State-aid during the last three financial years; and

(d) if so, how much, museumwar and yearwar?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—“(a) Ten.

“(b), (c) & (d) A statement* containing the information is placed on the table of the House.”

Supply of electricity to the Nandigama taluk.

* 62 Q.—SRI A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the further progress made since question No. 743 was answered on 9th February 1951 in the investigation to supply electricity to the Nandigama taluk, Krishna district, for lighting, irrigation and industrial purposes; and

(b) how long it will take to complete the construction of electric lines from Vijayavada to Jaggayyapet?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“(a) The investigation has been completed and a major scheme for extension of supply of electricity to Nandigama and other villages in Nandigama taluk, Krishna district, is being scrutinized by the technical officers of the Electricity department.

“(b) About two years from the date Government sanction is accorded to the extension scheme.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“May I know when the Government are expected to sanction the scheme?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“As soon as the report from the Chief Engineer is received, we will take it up for sanction. It may not take more than a month or so, I expect.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“There seems to be much delay in actually constructing the lines?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“We have to construct about 48 miles of 33 K.V. lines and 53 miles of 11 K.V. lines and corresponding sub-stations and other things. We have already collected the materials; but, however expeditiously we may do it, all these things do take time. Sometimes, we have to wait for materials which have to come from other countries.”

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Fish liver oil.

* 63 Q.—SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa):—Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the average cost of the fish liver oil produced at Kozhikode annually;

(b) the average amount realized by selling this oil annually; and

(c) what portion of the oil is exported annually from the State and how much is consumed in the State?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—“(a) Rupees 1,71,081.

“(b) Rs. 2,62,854.

“(c) The average value of oil exported annually from the Madras State to other States in India is Rs. 31,900 and that consumed in the Madras State is Rs. 2,30,954.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—“With regard to the answer to clause (c) regarding the quantity of oil that is consumed in this State, may I know whether any free supplies are given to dispensaries and hospitals for the use of the poor people?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—“I have no information, Sir; a separate question may be put.”

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—“May I know whether fish liver oil is different from shark liver oil; if so, may I know whether the Government are producing any shark liver oil in this State?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—“Shark is a fish, Sir. (Laughter.) But shark liver oil is different from cod liver oil.”

SRI P. NATESAN:—“May I know whether the Hon. Minister is satisfied with the working of this industry and whether it is working at a profit or not?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—“It is working at a profit.”

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR:—“In view of the food shortage in this country, may I ask whether the Government will consider a proposal to supply free shark liver oil or fish liver oil to the school children, especially in the elementary schools in various villages of our State?”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI:—“That question has already been answered.”

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we see that no doctor has prescribed this fish liver oil produced at Kozhikode for patients and invalids, will the Government see that this oil is popularized and people are advised to take it as tonic in large numbers?”

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THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" Yes, Sir; propaganda is being made asking people to take this oil in larger quantities."

JANAB N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR :—" Are there enough sharks available in this State to keep the Kozhikode factory going? "

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" Has this oil been found to be cheaper and more useful than cod liver oil? "

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know whether the Minister has received information that the supply of fish liver oil in the various Government hospitals in this State is not sufficient and that although prescriptions are made, nurses are not able to dispense to the patients the required quantities of fish liver oil, and whether any steps would be taken by the Government to increase the production of this oil? "

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" I have no information. Anyhow, we will enquire into the matter and see what can be done."

11-15
a.m.

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to purify the oil that is produced there, so as to make it equivalent to the imported oil, because though the oil that is produced here may be superior to foreign oil, its odour is such that it is not palatable? "

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" Even the imported oil is not palatable and it also gives smell. The shark liver oil also gives a bad smell. But, if it is purified, it will lose its potency."

SRI P. NATESAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have obtained the opinion of the medical authority to say that the fish liver oil produced by this factory is good for the patients? "

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" It has been tried and found effective."

List of development plans prepared by the Government.

* 64 Q.—SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state with reference to question No. 234 answered on 17th October 1950—

(a) whether this Government have provided the Planning Commission of the Government of India with a list of all development plans prepared by this Government;

(b) if so, what the hydro-electric and irrigation projects are that have been included in this development plan;

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(c) what the schemes are that have been sought to be given extra priority;

(d) whether development of Rayalaseema has been included in this list;

(e) whether a comprehensive list of various development plans proposed will be placed on the table of the House; and

(f) what other items of information have been asked for by the Central Government besides the list of development plans?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) :—" The answer ^a is placed on the table of the House."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH :—" May I know, Sir, why, in spite of the urgency that is being felt by the people of these districts for the early execution of the Krishna-Pennar Project, this Government have failed to include it in this development plan, which if included will irrigate lakhs of acres of land in the often famine-affected areas in Kurnool, Cuddapah and Nellore districts and also give water to the Krishna delta for second crop? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The question of inclusion of projects has been left to the Planning Commission. We have submitted the schemes to them and it is open to them to give priority to schemes which have been executed or those under investigation, within the monetary limit fixed for each State."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" May I know what the exact point of difficulty is which the Government of India feels in this matter and why it does not see eye to eye with our Government? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Technically there is no difference of opinion between this Government and the Government of India. Even in regard to the 137 crores of rupees we are finding it difficult to get the money and implement all the schemes which have been included. It is purely a question of finance."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Sir, I do not see any scheme with regard to the Ramanathapuram district, which is a backward district, and may I know why the Government have not included the Kallar Scheme, which we have been asking the Government to take up for the district? May I also ask whether the Government have received the report of the Special Officer appointed with regard to the development of the district? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The Special Development Officer is looking into all the schemes in the district. When his report is received we will examine how far they could be taken up. Most of the schemes which are under execution and those in regard to which investigation is completed, will be included."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH :—" Sir, in the list placed on the table of the House, the Krishna-Pennar Scheme has not

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been included. May I know what the opinion of the Government in the matter is and whether they are going to include this and execute it?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The opinion of this Government is quite clear in the matter. We have already submitted the Krishna-Pennar Project, the Pulichintala Project and the Ramapadasagar Project. All these are with the Government of India and it is up to the Planning Commission to give priority within their financial limit."

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN:—"May I know, Sir, whether any of the projects in the development plan will give any benefit to the West Coast, Malabar and South Kanara?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am not quite sure, but a number of them might benefit the West Coast also."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"If it is merely a matter of finance, may I know, Sir, whether this Government have found out whether the people to be benefited by the Krishna-Pennar Project will be willing to contribute a portion of the expenditure?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Even if the people should come forward to contribute, it will be after all a moiety, which will be less than 3 or 4 per cent and the rest of the huge cost of construction must be found from other sources. Therefore, even if people are willing to contribute, it will not go very far towards the cost of the scheme."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Krishna Reservoir Project has also been included in the list supplied by this Government to the Central Government and also what is the cost of the Tungabhadra Project?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Proposal for the Krishna Project also has been sent up to the Government of India and the rough cost of the Tungabhadra Irrigation Project, as far as I can remember, is round about Rs. 18 or 19 crores."

SRI K. RAJARAM NAIDU:—"May I know, Sir, why the Vaigai Reservoir Project and the Amaravathi Project have not been included in the list of schemes?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"If every Member refers to the schemes relating to his district, there will be no end to it."

SRI K. RAJARAM NAIDU:—"I only want to know whether the State Government have recommended to the Government of India the inclusion of these schemes in the development plan?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The answer to that question is in the affirmative."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, is not this development scheme to be taken as benefiting the State and the country as a whole; and not particular areas or particular districts only?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"All those considerations did weigh with the Planning Commission and they included those schemes in the National Planning."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"Sir, both the Hon. Leader of the House and the Hon. Mr. Bhaktavatsalam have been repeatedly assuring us that they will see that the Vamsadhara Project which is very necessary, especially to a scarcity district like Visakhapatnam is taken up early, and may I know why it has not been included or pressed upon the Government of India for inclusion in the list?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"As far as I am aware, Sir, investigation has not been completed and therefore we have not forwarded it. I may inform the hon. Members that all those schemes for which investigation has been completed have been forwarded to the Government of India."

JANAB N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR:—"Sir, I do not see the Palar Scheme here. What is wrong with the Government?" (Laughter.)

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN:—"Sir, arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister to my previous question, will he be pleased to tell us which of the items in this list will benefit Malabar and South Kanara?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"A separate question might be put, Sir."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, do the Government realise that even if the Planning Commission programme is fully given effect to, we will only be attaining the standard of living obtaining in 1938?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The population increases very rapidly, Sir."

Quantity of timber extracted during the last three financial years.

* 65 Q.—SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa): Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the total value and quantity of timber extracted during the last three financial years by Government agency;

(b) how much was consumed in the State and how much was exported; and

(c) the cost incurred by the Government to extract the timber every year for the last three years?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister):—" (a) to (c) The particulars required are furnished in the statement^a placed on the table of the House."

^a Printed as Appendix III on pages 566-567 infra.

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SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" Sir, may I know what the experience of the Government is in regard to the cost of cutting timber and whether Government management of timber cutting has been cheaper than timber cutting by contractors? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Of course, conditions differ from district to district. Even in cases where Government are exploiting forests, there is variation in dividends, but I cannot say whether exploitation of forests by Government is cheaper than exploitation by private agencies."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government will make arrangements for the supply of treated timber for house building, especially in view of the housing shortage and also for manufacturing utility furniture required by the householder? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I am sure the department is looking into it."

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

II.—MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House the following message, dated the 29th August 1951, from His Excellency the Governor of Madras :—

'I have received with great satisfaction your resolution of thanks for the Address with which I opened the present session of the Legislature.' "

III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS—cont.

(1) THE MADRAS FOREST (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951—cont.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Discussion on the Forest (Amendment) Bill will now continue. The hon. Member, Mr. Muniswami Pillay may continue his speech."

* **SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY**—cont. :—" Sir, while introducing the Bill, the Hon. Minister for Law was kind enough to say that it is proposed to levy a fee at the rate of 2 annas per cubic foot of timber and 8 annas per ton of fuel removed from forests to cover the cost of staff and that the extra expenditure on account of the amendment proposed to be made, has been estimated at 5 lakhs of rupees approximately. Sir, to a question put this morning the Hon. Minister has furnished the information that, during the last three years they have extracted about 1,288,000 odd cubic feet of timber and that the cost of extraction came to 7½ lakhs of rupees. This shows that the Government have been greatly benefited by the timber got from some of the districts. But, I find from the statement furnished that all the districts where timber is being extracted, have not been included in it. My only request to the Government is that in places where the huts of Harijans and poor people have been burnt, for whom the Government have so far been giving free timber,

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the sufferers should be given timber free as before. But, according to the amendments proposed in the Bill, even these people will be charged the cost of timber that may be supplied to them. Free supply of timber in the case of these people is a very legitimate one and, if this is not allowed, should there be any fire accident to their huts and hamlets, they will be forced to go out of those villages for want of houses. Even at present, according to the usual procedure followed in the grant of free timber, it takes a lot of time to re-build their houses, which really causes a great hardship to the poor people. I hope that the Select Committee will go into the question thoroughly and come to a favourable decision in regard to this matter.

" Sir, during the last visit of the Inspector-General of Forests to the Nilgiris, he observed that there are about 20,000 acres of land in the Nilgiris fit for the cultivation of wattle and he suggested that this land might be utilized for potato cultivation. But, I find that the Chief Conservator of Forests of this State has stated that it is not a wise policy to give any more land for potato cultivation. I do not know whether the Government have perused the statements made by these two responsible officers and also the comments made by some of the important dailies in this State. The question is whether the utilization of forest lands for cultivation purposes is beneficial or not. I hope that this question will also be thoroughly examined by the Select Committee.

" Then, Sir, even in the matter of assignment of land either for poor people or for Scheduled Tribes, the deforestation policy should be followed. For instance, in the Nilgiris, the Scheduled Tribes known as the Todas, have been claiming a greater extent of land as Toda patta land, but the Government say that except a certain portion of the land which is being granted to them on a permit system, the other portion cannot come under their patta. This question was taken to the notice of Prince Peter of Greece when he visited the Nilgiris recently, and also to the notice of the Hon. Home Member of the Union Government, Dr. C. Rajagopalachari, when he was in Ooty last time. I may state that it is understood that both of them recommended to the Government of India the grant of certain facilities to the Todas. The Government came to their rescue and ordered permits to be given for ten acres of land but due to the paucity of further lands for potato cultivation, the Todas have leased these lands to non-Todas and this has created much agitation in the Nilgiris and I know, Sir, the Government are also considering the matter.

" Regarding afforestation, I think, Sir, there ought to be a policy and anything that concerns the improvement, the forests must be brought in under the new Bill that is now under the consideration of the House. In doing so, Sir, I beg to submit the names of Members who shall constitute the Select Committee to consider the Bill—

- (1) The Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon,
- (2) Sri K. P. Kamakshi Chettiyar,
- (3) .. D. V. Ramaswami,

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- (4) Sri N. S. Varadachari,
- (5) „ V. I. Muniswami Pillay,
- (6) „ S. Nagappa,
- (7) Janab M. V. Hydross,
- (8) „ H. S. Hussain, and
- (9) Sri R. V. Swaminathan."

* **SRI N. S. VARADACHARI** :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the motion and in doing so, wish to make a few observations. The amendment of the Forest Act has a very limited scope and it seeks to amend the law in respect of what are known as private forests. After the passing of the Zamindari Abolition Act, most of the forests in zamindari tracts, both in the Telugu and Tamil districts, have now become State forests, in so far as the estates have been notified and taken over and there are no private forests to be dealt with as such in those areas. The problem is, therefore, simple as the rules governing State forests apply to them. But in respect of certain large areas as for instance in Malabar, the Kollengode and the Nilambur forests, these amendments would apply. The position in those areas is very peculiar. They are in areas where Government forests surround them. Since they are not zamindari areas and since they cannot be notified and taken over, the question arises as to what measure of control we can exercise over the private forests. The previous law demanded that either the State should take a lease if the State were satisfied that the private owners were able to fulfil the conditions laid down for forest management or acquire the forest under the Land Acquisition Act. The acquisition of forests is a very costly undertaking and if only proper conditions prevail, it is just possible that the income from private forests may hardly meet the expenditure that will have to be incurred on them for preservation and maintenance. Some of them may be rich in timber but the rate of fellings has been such and the plantings have been poor in comparison, that the value of the forests have very considerably deteriorated. It is this problem that is, in the main, sought to be tackled by means of this Bill.

" The Government, I know, have leased a part of the Kollengode forests and they have commenced a planting programme therein. They have also taken a lease of similar other forests in other areas in Gudalur, Nilambur, etc. There are still large tracts of forests where the present position is that the Government can only say how and under what conditions the forests should be maintained. But it may be difficult in all cases to supervise that these conditions are effectively fulfilled. That is the question that has to be tackled.

" I agree that we must have full powers to take over on lease or even acquire these forests at a proper valuation not according to the common standards, at so much per acre, because forests have no value unless what is extracted, either for fuel or for timber, is put back to life in the next ten, twenty or forty years. The Government have proposed that they should levy a particular

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seigniorage or cess on all timber extracted from private forests. This modest cess will yield Rs. 5 lakhs per year. I once made a calculation myself as to what it would cost to maintain all private forests when the Zamindari Abolition Act was not there; but it is of no use now because most of them have become State forests on account of the several estates having been notified and taken over. Now we must really safeguard what remains of these forests, because they are important for conserving our water-supply. There are many areas in the extreme South and on the West Coast which require considerable improvement in management so as to make them fit for preservation and I support the Bill wholeheartedly for that reason."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Amendment moved—

' That the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members :—

- (1) The Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon,
- (2) Sri K. P. Kamakshi Chettiyar,
- (3) „ D. V. Ramaswami,
- (4) „ N. S. Varadachari,
- (5) „ V. I. Muniswami Pillay,
- (6) „ S. Nagappa,
- (7) Janab M. V. Hydross,
- (8) „ H. S. Hussain, and
- (9) Sri R. V. Swaminathan.'

The motion as well as the amendment are before the House. I believe the Government are willing to accept the amendment."

* **SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI** :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon. Minister on having brought this very important measure. It is very necessary to focus the attention of the public on the need to understand the principle underlying the Union Government Minister's scheme of Vanamahotsava, and on the important role that trees play in the economic life of the people. This is the core of the problem which the Union Government are trying to solve and in which they have asked the State Governments to co-operate. While the need to afforest certain areas is recognized, in order to encourage the Grow More Food Campaign, forest areas are denuded of trees, or are permitted to be denuded. Even though Government officials are fully aware of it, large areas of hill slopes have been absolutely denuded in my district of Visakhapatnam and they look bald and bare. Although the Government have taken some portion of the zamindaris, the Agency people, who are accustomed to their own way of life and of raising podu cultivation or extracting timber or burning out vegetation for obtaining ashes for purposes of cultivation, do much damage to the forests to the detriment of the tenants lower down the hill. The Bill takes powers to see that people give information to the Government whenever there are forest fires or stealing or poaching going

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on in the forests. I believe that this is based upon the recommendations of the Forest officers who have of course wide experience of these matters; but the views of non-officials with a wider range of vision which could be of help in carrying out the beneficial policy enunciated in the Bill have not been considered. Therefore, I request the Government to consider the desirability of sending it to a Select Committee. I support the motion, Sir."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government accept the motion of the hon. Member that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the names suggested by him. Though the House passed the Bill renewing the life of the Private Forests Act a couple of days ago and it gives powers in relation to the cutting of timber, the exploitation of private forests is not done on any plan at all. It is done in a haphazard manner and according to the fancy of the owners. As was pointed out by my hon. Friend, Sri Varadachari, after the passing of the Zamindari Abolition Act, large extents of private forests in Malabar and South Kanara have become reserved forests. But, in Malabar and South Kanara, the oldest member of the family, who becomes the manager at the age of 80, looks after the exploitation of these private forests and we know the result. The most important provision that we have made is the taking of powers for the Government to have a working plan for private forests also.

" Since the details have been given already, I have to reply only to one particular point raised by my hon. Friend Sri Muniswami Pillai, though that was not quite germane to the Bill before the House. He said that very large areas in the beautiful spot in Nilgiris, the Wenlock Downs, have been given to political sufferers and considerable loss has been caused. The Government have already prepared the Bill—I do not know if it will come before this House or hereafter and it depends upon circumstances for the preservation of the Wenlock Downs as a National Park so that, as far as is humanly possible, we may try to see that it is not further spoiled. It is wrong to say that very large areas of it have been given to political sufferers. It covers several square miles and out of it, only an extent of 120 acres have been given to political sufferers in a corner of the Wenlock Downs. This area does not seem to be a part of it and is very near the township of Ootacamund. Under very strict conditions, namely, they must cultivate it according to the directions given by the Forest department, so as to avoid soil erosion, the lands have been given. I may tell my hon. Friend that care will be taken to see that no more lands are given, and the idea of the Government is to keep the Wenlock Downs in its pristine purity and grandeur.

" Another point referred to by him is about wattle cultivation. He said that there is difference of opinion between the Inspector-General of Forests and the Chief Conservator of Forests in regard to this. I may point out that it is not a matter of difference of opinion. The scheme for wattle cultivation covers an area of 6,000 acres now and the Inspector-General of Forests might have said

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that 20,000 acres might be taken up, and that wattle and potato should both be cultivated there. This proposal has been informally discussed with the officer during his June visit and it has not yet come to the stage of further examination and we will certainly examine the matter and see how far wattle cultivation could be carried on in conjunction with potato cultivation consistent with our ideas of soil conservation and forest preservation. With these remarks, I accept the amendment moved by the hon. Member that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—" Sir, I wish to make 11-45 my point very clear. I never said that a large extent of the Wenlock Downs has been given to political sufferers nor did I say that a great loss has occurred. What I said was that in accordance with their disafforestation policy, the Government have given a certain portion of the land and that has created a great agitation. I am not against giving land to political sufferers. As a member of the Soil Conservation Board, I know that they have made specific rules to avoid soil erosion in that area."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

That the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the following Members :—

- (1) The Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon,
- (2) Sri K. P. Kamakshi Chettiyar,
- (3) „ D. V. Ramaswami,
- (4) „ N. S. Varadachari,
- (5) „ V. I. Muniswami Pillay,
- (6) „ S. Nagappa,
- (7) Janab M. V. Hydross,
- (8) „ H. S. Hussain, and
- (9) Sri R. V. Swaminathan."

The motion was carried.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Under rule 83 of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon to be the Chairman of the Committee."

(2) THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras City Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1951, and move—

That the Bill be taken into consideration at once."

" Sir, the term of office of the Councillors and Aldermen of the Madras Corporation will expire at noon on the 1st day of November 1951 and in the normal course, ordinary elections to the Council of the Corporation will have to be held in September this year to enable the newly elected members to assume office on the

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due date. The electoral rolls for the Corporation have to be prepared only after the rolls for the Madras Legislative Assembly based on adult franchise are ready. As the final rolls for the Assembly have not yet been published, it is not possible to get the rolls of the Corporation ready in time for elections to be held in September this year. It is, therefore, proposed to undertake necessary legislation to extend the term of office of the existing Councillors and Aldermen to a date not later than the 1st November 1952. The Bill is intended to achieve this object. Similar legislation was passed recently in regard to mofussal municipalities."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Motion moved—

"That the Madras City Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once."

RAJAH MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Sir, I have the unique pleasure of supporting this motion of the Hon. Minister for Local Administration. So far as my knowledge of the elections to the City Corporation is concerned, I can say that the postponement of these elections to the Corporation by one year is not going to deprive the people of the opportunity of expressing their wish. I think, both from the administrative point of view and from the point of view of the prospective candidates who wish to contest elections both to the City Corporation and to the State Assembly and Parliament, this postponement is necessary and desirable. Of course, I only wish that this Bill had come earlier in this House. This could have been brought forward in March this year or at the last sitting of this House. Anyway, as it is a simple measure, it may be passed even without referring to a Select Committee."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, I must congratulate the Hon. Minister in charge of Local Administration on seeing light now. It would have been very difficult for the City Corporation to hold elections next month as the preparation of electoral rolls for the Corporation has not been completed. Recently a similar legislation in regard to district boards and municipalities was passed. Therefore, it is but right that he should come here with this Bill to extend the life of the City Corporation also. I am glad that this Bill contains no controversial clause and I must thank the Hon. Minister for it. Generally, it is the practice of some of the Hon. Ministers to bring Bills with clauses of a controversial nature before this House. But this Bill is non-controversial, harmless and useful and there is nothing in it to complain and I am sure it will be passed without any difficulty."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the Hon. Minister want to say anything?"

* THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"I have nothing to say except to thank the hon. Members for their support."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

"That the Madras City Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once."

The motion was carried.

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[Mr. Speaker]

The preamble and clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 were put and carried.

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

"That the Bill be passed into law."

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

(3) THE MADRAS SALES OF MOTOR SPIRIT TAXATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1951 and move—

"That the Bill be taken into consideration at once."

"Sir, though it is called the Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Bill, I am not bringing in any taxation measure at the fag-end of the term of the Legislature. The last amendment to the original Act was made in 1947 when the tax on every gallon of petrol was enhanced from 1½ annas to annas 4. Now, there is no intention on the part of the Government to enhance it any further. Though the ceiling fixed by the Government on this tax is up to six annas per gallon, we do not propose to raise it above the present rate. This amendment to the original Act is only intended to remove certain difficulties experienced by petrol companies who have to give voluminous details about the quantity of petrol they import and the quantity of petrol they sell to wholesale dealers. An enormous amount of clerical labour is involved in supplying this information and after all, it is of no use to us because the Sales Tax is on the retail sale of petrol at the consumer's end. Therefore, some time ago representatives of the various companies in Madras waited on deputation and their request is now being conceded by amending the Act. That is the main thing.

"Sir, we have taken this opportunity to make some verbal changes in some sections. Wherever the designation 'District Commercial Tax Officer' occurs in the Act, it is to be substituted by the designation 'Commercial Tax Officers.' No new principle is being imported into this amendment. Therefore, it is certainly a non-controversial Bill and I am sure, the House will pass it without any lengthy discussion."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

"That the Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once."

The motion was carried.

The Preamble and clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were put and carried.

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

"That the Bill be passed into law."

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THE MADRAS SALES OF MOTOR SPIRIT TAXATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951

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MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

'That the Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'

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

IV.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

(1) PARLIAMENTARY LEGISLATION IN REGARD TO (MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF) EVACUEE PROPERTY.

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

Whereas with a view to securing uniformity of legislation on the subject throughout the Union of India, it is desirable that Parliament should pass a law for the separation of the interests of evacuees from those of non-evacuees in joint property, to facilitate the better management and disposal of such property;

Now, therefore, in pursuance of Article 252 of the Constitution of India, this Assembly resolves that the matter aforesaid and all other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, in so far as they fall within entries 18 and 30 in List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, shall, in this State, be regulated by an Act of Parliament.'

"Sir, this again is an innocuous thing and perhaps will be helpful to those unfortunate people who are thrown out of their ancestral places and this will enable the Government of India to have legislation on a uniform basis in all the States, so that the properties and assets of non-evacuees may be separated from those of evacuees and they may be disposed of either by mortgage or sale. Now, the whole thing is inter-linked and there is no uniform legislation with regard to those people who have not left this country for Pakistan and *vice versa*. Therefore, this will only enable the Government of India to undertake a uniform legislation with regard to this matter."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

'Whereas with a view to securing uniformity of legislation on the subject throughout the Union of India, it is desirable that Parliament should pass a law for the separation of the interests of evacuees from those of non-evacuees in joint property, to facilitate the better management and disposal of such property;

'Now, therefore, in pursuance of Article 252 of the Constitution of India, this Assembly resolves that the matter aforesaid and all other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, in so far as they fall within entries 18 and 30 in List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, shall, in this State, be regulated by an Act of Parliament.'

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—" Sir, while supporting the motion that it is very desirable to have a uniform law in respect

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of the separation of the property of evacuees from those of non-evacuees, I wish to make only one observation. It is good that the Bill has come none too soon. There have been several cases where big evacuee firms—even limited companies—fled to Pakistan but still they wished to continue business in India keeping a few share-holders on the Indian soil. I know one such case. It was referred even to the High Court for decision. It is a very big firm with a capital running into crores of rupees but most of them were diverted to places outside India but still they carried on their business here in India and made profits and tried to escape from taxation. Immediately the question arose whether it could be considered evacuee property and whether Government could take over such property as a few share-holders of that particular company, which I am presenting to the House as an illustration, continued to reside within the Union. For, they were all Indian share-holders, Hindu share-holders, I may say, in a Muslim company. When such questions arise, as they are bound to arise, it is a complicated point of law to decide the issue one way or the other. So, it is most desirable that such interests should be separated and that companies registered in India should have non-evacuee property. There cannot be an evacuee property-holder, for, such property should go under the control of the Custodian of Evacuee Property. So, to have a law governing all evacuee property is very good. It will help in the settlement of various issues arising between India and Pakistan. Sir, I know of several cases of companies which are now closed down, as the properties are in the custody of the Custodian of Evacuee Property, and they are unable to carry on any business. So, I wish, legislation is speeded up. It will help several companies to re-form themselves and carry on their business. Then, Sir, such a legislation will also help to see that there is no evasion of tax. We will know what capital is invested in India and has not fled to foreign countries. It will also help to make adjustments possible with evacuee properties in other countries, mostly Pakistan, particularly of those who have left their properties in Pakistan and come over to India."

The motion was put and carried.

(2) MOTION UNDER RULE 67 OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RULES.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

'That under Rule 67 of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules the resolution relating to legislation for levy of estates duty in respect of agricultural land be taken up on Monday next.'

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Sir, I beg to submit that if this motion is to be adopted, there is a likelihood of the discussion on the levy of estate duty resolution being discussed only for one day as this House is to adjourn on Monday next. As

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noon.

[Janab Abdul Hameed Khan] [31st August 1951]

that subject is an important matter, it may have to be discussed for two or three days. Therefore, unless the Leader of the House is going to allow a longer period than one day for a discussion of this very important subject, I oppose his motion."

MR. SPEAKER:—"On Monday we shall decide it."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, if it is decided to allot only one day for discussion of this very important subject, it would mean curtailing the discussion. Sir, the object of this motion is to take up the levy of estate duty resolution as the last item of business on Monday. That means the period of discussion would be cut down to one day, whereas we want to discuss it for two or three days. So, I oppose the motion."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, what my hon. Friend is keen about is, that we should have an indication of the mind of Government on this levy of estate duty. We want to know what is exactly in their mind with regard to this. We would all indeed be very happy if Government are going to drop this resolution. For, they know what the feeling of the people is on this levy. In view of the great feeling which has been aroused in the country on this subject, in view of the views expressed on the floor of the Upper House and here too, in the Lower House, we are all anxious that Government should drop this resolution."

"Then, Sir, it may not be possible to finish discussion on this resolution in one day. While I heartily welcome the motion of the Leader of the House to adjourn the consideration of this resolution to Monday next, we sincerely hope this adjournment will result in the dropping of the resolution on the levy of estates duty on agricultural land. We know the Hon. Chief Minister has returned to Madras only yesterday. We do not know what the result of his consultations at Delhi is. We know that the Cabinet has not had time to meet and discuss this point after the return of the Hon. Chief Minister from Delhi. Probably the Cabinet will be meeting this evening or to-morrow, and probably they will decide to drop this resolution; otherwise, we only wish to mention this, namely, we would expect Government to allot more time than one day, Monday next. There is time for that in this session itself, as we have time from Monday next, the 3rd to 5th proximo; or if they cannot allot more time during this session, let them take further discussion on it to the next session. While we say this, we sincerely live in the hope, Government will drop this proposal to levy estate duty in respect of agricultural land, as it will only impede agricultural production. Sir, I hope Government will decide to drop this measure."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Sir, I take a different view of this matter."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member should talk on the motion for adjournment of business and not on the merits of the case."

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SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"I am not going into the merits of the case. Sir, the hon. Gentleman, Raja Sahib, while speaking said that he wished Government dropped the proposal for levy of estate duty on agricultural land. My feeling in that matter is, Government should not drop the proposal."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may say all that when the resolution comes up before the House for discussion."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"I bow to your ruling, Sir. But here I would submit to Government one thing. I want to know from them whether they want this postponement in order to drop this proposal or they want more time to consider so that they may proceed with this proposal. If they are asking for this adjournment with the idea of dropping this proposal, I oppose this motion. But if they want this adjournment to go ahead with the proposal, I support the motion."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, we want a little more time to consider all the pros and cons of the Bill. Therefore we want to have a short adjournments for to-day. On Monday we will come forward with our intention. We do not want to disclose now our mind on the matter, whether we want to drop it or to carry on with it. We want some time; therefore we are not moving this resolution to-day. So, hon. Members need not get excited, this way or that way about this matter." (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall now put the motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

'That under Rule 67 of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules the resolution relating to legislation for levy of estates duty in respect of agricultural land be taken up on Monday next.'

The motion was carried.

(3) AMENDMENT TO SCHEDULE V TO THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES ACT, 1920.

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

'That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by His Excellency the Governor of Madras under section 305 (1) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 (Madras Act V of 1920), amending Schedule V to that Act be approved:—

DRAFT RULE.

In the said Schedule—

(1) for clause (a), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(a) Washing soiled clothes or keeping soiled clothes for the purposes of washing them or keeping washed clothes";

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan] [31st August 1951]

- (2) in the proviso at the end, for the words "for boiling paddy when such storage or boiling", the words "for boiling paddy or for keeping soiled clothes or washed clothes or for washing soiled clothes when such storage, boiling, keeping or washing" shall be substituted.

Sir, in moving this motion for approval of amendments to certain schedules to the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 (and also the Madras District Boards Act, 1920 and the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, which I will move subsequently) I would like to indicate briefly the reasons for the proposed amendments.

Under clause (a) of Schedule V to the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, read with section 249 of the Act, a licence is required for a place used for 'washing soiled clothes and keeping soiled clothes for the purpose of washing them and washed clothes'. The construction put upon this clause by courts is that a licence is needed only for washing as well as keeping soiled clothes within the municipal limits and that no licence is needed merely for the purpose of keeping soiled clothes for washing, while washing is done outside the municipal limits. The intention as well as the practice so far has always been to licence places used for:—

- (1) keeping soiled clothes for the purpose of washing, or
- (2) keeping washed clothes, or
- (3) washing soiled clothes

except in cases where such keeping or washing is for private use.

"In order to remove the ambiguity it is proposed to amend clause (a) of Schedule V to the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and the corresponding item in Schedule VI to the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919. It is also proposed to introduce a similar provision in Schedule VII of the Madras District Boards Act, 1920 as there is no such provision at present in that Act. Sir, I move."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that if this amendment is carried it would cause a lot of hardship to those poor people, the washermen. I know, as one having something to do with public health administration in municipalities and similar areas, what amount of harassment the washermen could be subjected to by the minions of the Health Department, who are directly under the control of the Director of Public Health and over whom the municipality has no direct control. It should be remembered that washermen do an important public health business, and that is why I am prompted to speak on their behalf to see that they are exempted from this little harassment."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Sir, this amendment is meant for them, to save them from this little harassment, and so I do not see the force of the argument of the hon. Gentleman."

The motion was put and carried.

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(4) AMENDMENT TO SCHEDULE VI TO THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL ACT, 1919.

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Sir, I move—

'That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by His Excellency the Governor of Madras under section 347 (3) of the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919 (Madras Act IV of 1919), amending Schedule VI to that Act be approved.

DRAFT RULE.

In the said Schedule—

- (1) for the penultimate item (relating to washing soiled clothes, etc.), the following item shall be substituted, namely—

"Washing soiled clothes or keeping soiled clothes for the purpose of washing them or keeping washed clothes."

- (2) in the proviso occurring after the item "Yarn-Dyeing", for the words "for boiling paddy when such storage or boiling", the words "for boiling paddy or for keeping soiled clothes or washed clothes or for washing soiled clothes when such storage, boiling, keeping or washing" shall be substituted."

The motion was put and carried.

(5) AMENDMENT TO SCHEDULE VII TO THE MADRAS DISTRICT BOARDS ACT, 1920.

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Sir, I have—

'That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by His Excellency the Governor of Madras under section 201 (1) of the Madras District Boards Act, 1920 (Madras Act XIV of 1920), amending Schedule VII to that Act be approved.

DRAFT RULE.

In the said Schedule—

- (1) after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"(aa) Washing soiled clothes or keeping soiled clothes for the purpose of washing them or keeping washed clothes";

- (2) in the proviso at the end, after the words "for boiling paddy", the words "or for keeping soiled clothes or washed clothes or for washing soiled clothes" shall be inserted and for the words "when such boiling or storage" the words "when such boiling, keeping, washing or storage" shall be substituted."

The motion was put and carried.

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III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS—cont.

(4) THE MADRAS PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND REMOVAL OF
DISQUALIFICATIONS BILL, 1951.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Sir, I introduce the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Bill, 1951, and move—

‘That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.’

“The Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Act, 1937, lapsed with the coming into force of the new Constitution. Now, Ministers are paid salaries under Article 164 (5), the Speaker and Deputy Speaker and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman under Article 186, and the members of the Assembly and the Council under Article 195 of the Constitution. Whatever was done before the commencement of the new Constitution is being continued and therefore we want to revise the Act as required by the Constitution. Incidentally, we have taken the opportunity to introduce a provision for the payment of travelling and daily allowances to the Speaker and the Chairman and no new principle is involved in this.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Motion moved—

‘That the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.’”

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ The Hon. Leader of the House said that the 1937 Act has lapsed. I just want him to explain how it has lapsed.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ The 1937 Act has lapsed and that is why we want to revive it. Under Articles 164 (5), 186 and 195, the Ministers and officers of the Legislature shall be paid such salary as the Legislature of the State may from time to time by law determine and, until the Legislature of the State so determines, shall be as specified in the Second Schedule. We are now governed by the Second Schedule. The State Legislature must be given an opportunity to determine the salaries. Therefore we have introduced the Bill.”

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ Sir, Article 372 (1) says—

“... subject to the other provisions of this Constitution, all the laws in force in the territory of India immediately before the commencement of this Constitution shall continue in force therein until altered or repealed or amended by a competent Legislature or other competent authority.”

This Article keeps alive the old Act. I cannot understand how it has lapsed. When I asked for an explanation, the Hon. Leader of the House simply replied that it had lapsed. If the Government want to make any substantial alteration, it is open

* Published in the Fort St. George Gazette Extraordinary, dated 26th August 1951.

31st August 1951] [Sri T. Viswanatham]

to them and this House to do so. Incidentally we may increase the salary of some of the officers of the Legislature as I feel that it is not adequate.”

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also agree with my hon. Friend Sri T. Viswanatham's view that the old Act has not lapsed. If it had lapsed, we must have been functioning without an Act.

“ I would like the Hon. Minister to come forward with a motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. This Bill gives an opportunity to the House to revise the salary of Ministers and officers of the Legislature. It is very unfortunate that the Ministers are paid such a low salary as Rs. 1,000 exclusive of allowances. I want the salary to be raised and I have been pleading for this whenever I had an opportunity. The status of a Minister has to be kept high and this cannot be done with the present meagre salary. Though some Ministers may be satisfied with the present salary, their status and dignity require a better salary. Besides their many responsibilities as Ministers, they have to discharge a responsibility in the social sphere. Hon. Ministers may say that in a democracy there can be no difference between a Minister and a common man. That is beside the point. The salary and allowances of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman also deserve to be increased. Adequate justice has not been done to the Deputy Speaker. Her salary and allowances have not been increased in accordance with the needs of the times. I hope the Hon. Leader of the House will accept my suggestion or himself move a motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee which could consider the increase of salaries and suggest suitable amendments.”

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—“ Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by the Hon. Leader of the House. Ministers are entitled to travelling and daily allowances when they are on tour. But the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and the Speaker and Deputy Speaker are not eligible for travelling and daily allowances when they tour to perform certain functions at the request of the general public. I think this disparity between the officers of the Legislature and the Ministers should not exist. The plea of the hon. Gentleman Janab Abdul Hameed Khan for raising the salary of Ministers also requires consideration. One Minister resigned and his duties also devolved on the other Ministers. I know as a matter of fact that the Ministers have to work for eighteen hours a day. These matters have to be carefully considered.”

* JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would have been correct if the Hon. Leader of the House had said that the old Act was being repealed and a new Act passed instead of saying that the old Act had lapsed. If the old Act had really lapsed, the whole House would have been surcharged by the accounting authorities.

[Janab M. S. Abdul Majid] [31st August 1951]

"I agree with the speakers who preceded me that the salaries of the Ministers, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and the officers of the Legislature are not commensurate with their status and dignity."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"Officers of the Legislature do not come under the purview of this Bill."

* JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—"Then I leave them out of my remarks."

"When I see our Hon. Ministers residing in palatial buildings and compare this with the salaries that they are drawing to-day, I do not know how they are able to make both ends meet. It must be the privilege of a Minister to entertain some members of the legislature or the members of his party now and then to acquaint himself with the conditions in the country. It must be the privilege of a Minister to take part in several functions so that he may study the various aspects. Therefore I cannot understand why our Ministers, in the name of simplicity, in the name of some ideologies of their party, are keeping their salaries low. We want that our Ministers should have proper status and proper dignity surrounding them. For this purpose, I insist that Government must make arrangements to increase the salaries of the Ministers."

12-30 P.M. "Then, Sir, I refer to the salary of the Hon. Speaker. Though I am not putting much emphasis on this, I must emphasise at least this fact, namely, that the salary of the Hon. Deputy Speaker is really very low. We all know that the office of the Deputy Speaker of the House also has got its own dignity and status. The present salary and allowances attached to that office are really not worthwhile. I would ask the Hon. the Leader of the House to consider this matter very seriously."

"I really do not know whether hon. Members of this House are satisfied with their own salaries. So far as I am concerned, I have not got anything to say in the matter. But some of the hon. Members belonging to the party in power have communicated to me, and told me times without number—I am not here betraying the confidence they have in me—that the salaries given to them are not really worthwhile. They have asked me to refer to the salaries drawn by the Members of Legislatures of States like Ceylon where hon. Members are paid nearly Rs. 500 plus a silver pass, which enables them to travel wherever they like in that beautiful Island of Ceylon. Similarly the salaries drawn by Members of other Houses, whether it is the House of Commons or other Houses of Representatives of other countries are more. When I compare the salaries of those Members with the salaries drawn by the Members here, I find that our salaries are really very low. We want our representatives to be independent and care-free so that they can devote greater attention to the affairs of this State and to the people, whom they are representing in this House. Often we hear considerable loose talk in the State that 'So and So' is making money. Yesterday, when we were discussing about the corruption of officers, I was in the lobby. One

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man was actually asking me 'are you going to refer to the financial status of hon. Members of your very House; what was their financial status when they entered the House in 1946 and what is their financial status to-day? Such loose talks are going on. Therefore, Sir, in order to keep the representatives of the people happy and contented, and also to make them more effective legislators, we must see that their salaries are so fixed as would make them care-free and independent. With these few remarks, Sir, I support the suggestion thrown out by the hon. Member Mr. Hameed Khan to refer the Bill to a Select Committee so that Members of the House would have greater opportunities of discussing the several provisions of the Act, which is being re-enacted to-day."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—"Sir, I thought it was purely a formal Bill, and it would not at all take this turn. It is hardly wise on the eve of general elections to be debating about the salaries of Members of the Legislature and Ministers. Every legislature has perfect right, I agree, to determine the salaries of its Members and Ministers. I am glad that the hon. Member Mr. Majid spoke about the salaries of Members though the other Members who spoke before him really did intend to speak about the salaries of Members but hit at the salaries of Ministers. It is unwise—I deliberately say this—not only for us but also for the Opposition and for everybody to be debating about the salaries of Members or officers of the Legislature at this time. I know hon. Members opposite often ask 'how much retrenchment has there been in expenditure; why are you incurring exorbitant expenditure; why are you spending more money than necessary; how are these additions necessary', and so on. I have my own views of the functions and duties of Speakers of Assemblies and Chairmen of Councils. I wish we all follow the wise Parliamentary traditions of the British democracy in this matter. It is the best example to follow in the world in respect of these matters. I do not say that in respect of everything. We may make our own rules, and adopt them in our own way. But in respect of these particular provisions, we may adopt the most salutary provisions existing in the British Parliamentary procedure."

AN HON. MEMBER :—"What are they?"

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—"What are they is another matter. Each Member may get a thousand pounds as, for instance, hon. Members of the British Parliament do. But we are not in that position. Our revenues do not compare favourably with the revenues of England. These are all different matters altogether. I say that whatever be the position, to-day the re-introduction of this Act has been necessitated by the Constitution itself. We were being governed by the schedule. But since we became a legislature under the Constitution, we have not determined the amount of the emoluments of the presiding officers of the Assembly, Ministers, Members of the Legislature, and Parliamentary Secretaries (though there are none to-day). That is why we

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must re-enact the whole thing to-day and see that we conform to what existed already. The new legislature will have ample opportunity to legislate on these matters again and pass its own Bill. That is what I say. I am glad that this Act is being re-enacted without any substantial changes. We are simply passing this Bill in order to meet audit objections in some cases, and also because there is the necessity of the law in the matter."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would have been much better if the Government had changed their mind at least at this stage as regards the salaries and emoluments of their officers. No doubt they have been given a thousand rupees per month. Clause 13 gives me a clue to the inner working of their minds. It says 'Any person entitled to any salary or allowance under this Act may relinquish the whole or any portion thereof'. Then we have a number of rules as to how they should relinquish and what they should relinquish. If the Government mean business, and if the Ministers take exactly what they want and no more, why is this provision there in clause 13? Is it to show to the people that they want to give it up? There is no question of anybody giving it up. Let us be honest in this at least, and let there be no bawling about it. If the Government mean to say that they are taking too much, let them cut it short. No less a person than Mahatma Gandhi has stated—it is the last word he said before his death—that Rs. 500 per month should be the maximum for any Government servant, high or low. The fact that persons on higher salaries have not taken advantage of this suggestion of Gandhiji does not mean that people on lower salaries should not take advantage of it. Why not this Government set up this golden standard? It has been stated by one of our Members that our revenues do not permit of more salaries being given to Members. I am not asking for more salaries, but I ask why should not the same considerations of revenue come to our rescue to reduce the salaries of Ministers also? The higher the salary the higher the status of the person is not the right view. Compared with England, our country is too poor to afford to pay our legislators the salaries paid to Members in England. In England the Prime Minister gets a salary of £5,000 per annum, which comes to about Rs. 6,000 per month. Compared with England, is India in a position to pay this salary? Why then speak of poor India and poverty-stricken people of the country? We invoke the name of Mahatma Gandhi when it suits us and we do not when it does not. Why not we at this stage try to make a noble gesture to the people of this country by saying 'it is not the money that makes us stick to office, but it is the spirit of service that does'."

"One other point, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the proposal to give daily allowance and travelling allowance to the Speaker and to the Chairman. This has been a long-felt want. The Speaker, for all the work he does, must know what is happening in the country. Even the rulings he gives must have relation to the living conditions in the country. He must have wide touring and he must

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understand the feelings of the people. This will be a great advantage to him. I certainly congratulate the Government on having made this very necessary amendment. But there is an explanation given that travelling allowance will be paid to the Speaker and Chairman for journeys performed by them within the State for participating in any public function, the invitation to which may reasonably be attributed to the fact that they are holding high offices, e.g., functions convened by the State or the Central Government. I wish to make it clear that no such restriction should be placed upon the Speaker's (or the Chairman's) discretion. A Minister can go and open an old bridge or a broken culvert, and still claim full daily allowance and travelling allowance. Sometimes Ministers have gone out to re-open old cinemas. No restriction is placed on their tours. I wonder why the discretion of the Speaker and the Chairman should be restricted by the legislature only to public functions? Who is to determine whether the function is a private or a public one? Why not leave it more gracefully to the Speaker or the Chairman? The explanation given to sub-clause (2) of clause 16 places this restriction on the discretion of the Speaker and the Chairman. Nothing is stated in the Bill itself, and, therefore, this explanation should not be the basis of any action. No restriction should be placed on the discretion of the Speaker and the Chairman.

"I now come to clause 10, Sir. This takes my breath away. I do not think any other Government have thought it fit to provide a Minister and the members of his family with free of charge accommodation in hospitals maintained by the State Government and also with medical treatment. This is beggarly business. Government have no business to come forward with requests like mendicants. Why should a Minister think that he should, in addition to all that is paid to him, get free of charge accommodation in hospitals? He gets the salary for the period he stays in the hospital. To ask for free of charge accommodation in hospitals is something which I cannot understand at all. This provision is extended even to the families of Ministers. In these days when we want to consider the question of the desirability of collecting tax on commercial crops, and when we want to fleece the rich and pamper the poor, I do not know why this Government like to sin in this matter. I can understand the Government providing facilities for the poor-paid Government servants. The Mysore Government have made provision for the free medical treatment of Government servants of a particular grade and below for so long as they remain in the Government hospitals. It would be very graceful if this Government also adopted a similar provision. The particular clause in the Bill jars upon my ear and offends my sense of propriety.

"Sir, clause 13 smacks of something like superiority complex. In India people seem to think that if a man is earning Rs. 1,000 and if he gives up that Rs. 1,000, he makes a lot of sacrifice. Unfortunately that mentality prevails in the Congress ranks also. Sir, that is not proper. A salary is a salary and I cannot understand

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a man working honorary, a man taking a rupee as salary for a month. It is all nonsense and we should not encourage it here. If a man wants to take a salary, let him take it and let him say so. There is no point in giving up one's salary as a sort of charity to the Government. The Government can't be made to appear as a beggar before any person and it is trying to put upon a man added significance by making it appear that he is giving up the salary for the duty he is obliged to render. So, clause 13 does not suit the civilized conditions of modern life. It is so jarring and it deserves to be taken out of the Bill. I do not know if the Speaker who is conversant with the Governments of the world can enlighten us whether such a provision is found in the Payment Act of any other country. As regards the Speaker, Sir, I should like in this matter to be guided by the practice obtaining in England.

"Sir, I thought the hon. Member, Sri Varadachari, who is conversant with many matters more than many other hon. Members of this House, would give us some idea of the practice in England. Though reply has been evaded to the hon. Gentleman Sri Viswanatham's questions, yet I should be glad to know if in England the Speakers are given higher powers than what they have in this country. If so, I should like that the Presiding Officers, the Speakers of the Assembly and the Chairmen of the Council, are clothed with all the powers that the Speakers in England and other democratic countries have. All the powers that they possess there and all the conveniences that they have got there must be given to the Speakers in this country also.

"Finally, as regards the Members, I do not think that the payment of Rs. 150 is much. Sir, the disparity that exists between a Minister and a Member is so much in India that we are not getting that sort of Members which we very much like. Perhaps if the Government are not prepared to reduce the salaries of Ministers, I think the Members have a right to have their salaries increased to the level of the salaries of the Members in England. In England I am told,—why go to England,—even in Ceylon there is free travelling facility for a Parliamentary Member; he is paid daily allowance of Rs. 50 for every day of meeting he attends and he is paid Rs. 600 per month for the work he does. In England the Members are provided with Shorthand Typists and other staff to help them. Here we go abegging in the corridors of the Secretariat to request any of the typists to do some typing for us. I wish greater facilities are provided for the Members.

"Sir, the Members' salaries are subject to income-tax. Why should this be so? This payment must be free of income-tax, because it is not a salary at all, if I may say so. If a Member takes salary, he is bound to render an account to the Government; he is liable to keep a diary and render an account of the money and time spent by him. It is incongruous that this should be construed as salary. I wish, Sir, that it is free of income-tax.

"With these remarks, I generally commend this Bill to the House."

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JANAB N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that the hon. Gentleman Sri Varadachari is not here now. I cannot understand some of the observations which he made in the course of this debate. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, now that the House is at the fag-end of its life, it is just the opportune moment when we can, from our own experience of the difficulties as legislators, give our judgment for the benefit of posterity. It is not good that we must allow such a legislation about salaries to be passed which would be obviously embarrassing to the future members of this House. It is not necessary that we should leave this measure to the Assembly that will come into existence after the elections. We know, Mr. Speaker, speaking particularly of the Ministers, they have now grown in their stature, with additional responsibilities and privileges. But it is rather paradoxical to let them suffer with a mere pittance of a thousand rupees a month. I consider this as something *infra dig* because it is all right for us to quote examples from antiquity that our elders, our ancestors, lived a life of simplicity but all such considerations are now deemed to be parsimony. When we have entrusted these Ministers of State with very high responsibilities of Government, it is unfair to expect them to be equal to those responsibilities, privileges and paraphernalia with this sum of one thousand rupees which is hardly equal to a tenth of their requirements. Equally so about our Members. Mr. Speaker, when my hon. Friend Janab Majid raised his voice in defence of increasing the salaries and allowances of the hon. Members of this House, let me assure you he did not speak for himself. Many of us will be coming back to this House. We speak with a detachment and disinterestedness that nobody on that side can now claim. But when we say this, we want to leave behind very good traditions at least for the new House that is going to be formed after the elections. Very many friends who are supposed by the world at large to be living on a small allowance of Rs. 150 a month, it looks paradoxical and quixotic, are displaying their pot-bellies these five years and going about in jimousines all the day. Mr. Speaker, it is high time we cry a halt to all this talk of parsimony. Let us at least compare ourselves with what our friends do in the neighbouring States. The example of Ceylon was given. When that little island can afford from out of its exchequer to provide ample amenities for the legislators, I do not see any reason why we should not.

"Mr. Speaker, speaking about the very high office that you hold, I am sure that you have by your own ability given us an account that the office that you hold deserve a much better salary and much better allowances. But I can't understand why in our country we should be thinking in terms of Rs. 500. It looks something like a mockery, when even the clerks are getting nowadays about Rs. 150 a month, that we should go about, like the Heads of Departments, claiming salary for ourselves in this House. I wish all this incongruity is given the go-bye and that we actually make amends for our past and perhaps also for the future. Of course, whatever we speak, we speak not for our own selves now.

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We will even impose upon ourselves a self-denying ordinance; we do not want any more privileges, we do not want any more salaries, we do not want any more allowances, and we shall bid good-bye to them. But at least for posterity, for friends who will come and adorn this House in the future,—let them be worthy of the responsibilities they hold—let ample amenities be provided from out of the exchequer so that they may be equal to their privileges, equal to their responsibilities and equal to their status."

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the views expressed by my hon. Friends Janab Abdul Majid and Janab Muhammad Anwar. I feel it would be better if the salaries of the future Ministers, Speaker, Chairman of the Council, and also the Members of the Legislature are fixed decently. For this reason purposely I read yesterday the debate which we had in the year 1946 when Sri Prakasam, the then Premier, moved the Salaries Bill. He then proposed that instead of Rs. 500 salary which was earmarked in the year 1937, the Ministers would draw a salary of Rs. 1,000 and house rent and motor allowances of Rs. 500. I know some of the hon. Members, more so from my party, strongly opposed the then increment in their salaries on the ground that since those people were wedded to simple living and high thinking, they need not have a hundred per cent increment. I myself felt at the time that we were a little bit uncharitable or possibly that we were taking objection out of political motives. Now things have changed considerably, Mr. Speaker. All those days of simple living, high thinking, and suffering are all gone. The Congress no longer represents a movement in this country but is a political party and it has to run the Government and assume responsibility. I could well understand the difficulties of the Hon. Ministers. When they are given a salary of Rs. 1,000 a month, they cannot carry on their business with that. It will be a very difficult job for them to make both ends meet. I really wonder whether any Hon. Minister is free from financial difficulties and I think most of them by the 15th of the month will feel worried as to how to meet their expenses during the latter part of the month. It is always a good thing for the hon. Ministers to come into contact with the officials and with the Members of the Legislative Assembly or Council and they can do it only at social gatherings, lunches and dinner parties. But it is quite impossible for them with their present salaries even to invite half a dozen Members of the House. Even on one or two rare occasions, when they invite us, they are put to great difficulties.

" After all, no Minister could be sure that he would have a full term of five years. Any small provocation may induce them to offer their resignation. Again, after a person assumes the position of a Minister, he gets accustomed to a way of living and certain standards. When he is thrown out of office, it is difficult for him to maintain those standards and we cannot expect those people to reduce their standards. Therefore, if a salary commensurate with their responsibilities is fixed, they would be able to have some

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saving and if thrown out of office, they would be able to maintain their position. I think it would have been better if the Hon. the Leader of the House had had the courage to say that the future Ministers would get a salary of Rs. 2,500 or Rs. 3,000. I know Ministers are also very nice people. They do not want to make it appear to the world that they are going to draw so much salary. I do not think the public of Madras will in any way grudge if our Ministers draw Rs. 2,500 a month. After all, it will come to a few lakhs. When the Ministers waste lakhs of rupees on their own pet schemes, there is nothing wrong if they draw as salary Rs. 2,500 for the very responsible work which they have to discharge.

" With regard to the Members of the Legislature, I feel that they deserve better allowance or salary than what they are getting now. We are given Rs. 150 not as salary but to discharge certain duties and responsibilities, to go about our constituencies and to mix with people. I do not think that a sum of Rs. 150 will in any way suffice to do the job.

" Sir, very often you quote the precedents of the House of Commons. I feel it would be better if the future Leader of the Opposition, whoever he may be whether a member of the Congress Party or the Praja Party or any other party, should also draw a salary because people look to the Leader of the Opposition to put forward their views and it is not otherwise possible for him to carry on his duties and responsibilities. In keeping with the tradition of the House of Commons, let us fix a salary for the Leader of the Opposition. The other day the Deputy Speaker also raised the question of the salary of the Deputy Speaker and said that the present salary was quite insufficient. She also said that she wanted it to be raised not for the present incumbent but for the future Deputy Speaker. Sir, really the salary of Rs. 300 for the Deputy Speaker and Deputy Chairman is too low. I do not like to refer to the salary of the Hon. Speaker as I do not want to put you in an embarrassing position. But I do want to say that what is given to the Chair at present is not commensurate with the responsibilities attached to the post. I would like to draw your kind attention to the speech made by the Hon. Leader of the House on a previous occasion. He was nervous about increasing the salaries as he thought that there may not be unanimity of opinion in the matter. We do hope that the Government would bring forward a further amendment fixing up the salaries of the various incumbents adequately."

The House then rose for lunch.

(After lunch—3 p.m.)

* DR. D. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a point that was greatly stressed just before we dispersed this morning. It was said that the salaries of the Ministers and others connected with the Assembly and the Council were not adequate considering the amount of trouble, work and energy that

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were involved in the discharge of the duties of the Ministers and others. When Sri Rajagopalachari's Government made it a point to accept only Rs. 500 as salary in those days, other Congress Ministries in the country followed suit. But I remember that at that time Gandhiji remarked that Rs. 500 may be a small income for the Ministers, but when one looked at it from the point of view of the people at large, it was a very large amount to be expected from the poor people of this country. At the same time, I remember that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru also advocated the principle that when India became independent, the highest post in the country should not carry a salary of more than Rs. 500 per month. This is a very difficult situation. What is sacrifice to one may not be a sacrifice to another. But the whole Congress Party under the leadership of that great man, Mahatma Gandhi, has tried to sacrifice in spite of its failings. I think the party to which I belong has won its reputation and esteem in the country by the process of *thyagam*. There is a general talk and feeling that these *thyagis* are gradually becoming *bhogis* and thus they are losing their prestige and honour in the country. From one point of view, I think we can never adequately remunerate a person for his service. The greatest, finest and noblest service in the country has been rendered on a sacrificial basis all these days. Those of us who have been brought up at the feet of that greatest leader of this country in this generation, have been taught that opportunities there are for service but not for adequate remuneration. It is a privilege not to be remunerated sufficiently. Even in professions like law and medicine and also arts and music the finest among the professionals are never adequately remunerated. Therefore, whether our Ministers and Members of the Legislature are sufficiently remunerated or not is a minor question altogether. What for we really came in here, what it was that made us join the freedom movement and the Congress are matters over which we should deeply think. Congress provided an opportunity for service to the country irrespective of economic repercussions on the individual. After being here for about four years and just as we are about to leave and face the country on the eve of general elections and also knowing as we do the attitude of the people about our term of office in the State, it is most unwise and even undiplomatic to raise this question of increasing one's salaries. If we say that we are not keen on getting more than what we have been getting, that would be more to the point. On the other hand, to ask for something more when the people do not have unanimous opinion as to whether we are doing all that they want us to do, is not proper in the present circumstances. Therefore I request the Government not to press this point much. Let Members begin to emphasise upon the sacrificial aspect so that it may be of use to the new Government that will mould the destinies of the State in the years to come. All that we have done in the past, all the professions that we have made in the past and all the ideals that we have stood for in the past will lose their value when once the people begin to feel that we are out here directly or indirectly to feather our own

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nest. Sir, Rs. 1,000 may be a small salary for a man who has to work day and night. But there are other people who get one-tenth of that amount and who also work day and night. It is for us to prove that there are people who are willing to work without getting adequate remuneration for nights and days. Of course, we cannot draw hard and fast rules for everybody. We must carry on with the principle of sacrifice for the well-being of the common man for whom we have come in here and in whose name we have come to power. I feel that it is of the utmost importance that we should proceed on the basis of *thyagam* and sacrifice and not of selfishness and self-aggrandisement."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I fix a time-limit of 5 minutes for each hon. Member."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the hon. Members have suggested that the salaries of Ministers and the Members of the Legislature should be raised. This is a delicate question as it concerns the Members of the House and the Members of the Government. It may not look fair if one is to dwell on this subject rather elaborately. But, I think it will be fair in one sense, viz., that what we propose to do will be beneficial to the future Members of the Legislature who will be elected shortly and who will meet in the new House at the Government House Estate. Some hon. Members suggested that a salary of Rs. 1,000 for the Ministers and Rs. 150 for the Members is too low and not commensurate with the duties that they have to discharge. That is one aspect of the question. There is also another point of view. It has been suggested by certain Members that this is a poor country and we cannot afford to give higher salaries to the Ministers and Members of Legislature as is done in other countries. Sir, I think that we must reconsider this problem taking every aspect into consideration. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to what is being done in a small country like Ceylon which is nearer our country. Let me tell the hon. Members what is being done in that country. A different system is being adopted there. My hon. Friend Sri Raghavayya also referred to it. But he has not given a full picture about the situation there, as he may not be in possession of full information. Formerly, when they had the Council, every Member used to get Rs. 500 per month. When it became Parliament, they raised this amount to Rs. 600. They do not get any travelling allowance, like 1½ first-class or 1½ second-class or any such thing. But they are allowed free travel in the train and are also getting other amenities."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" What are the other amenities? "

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" I will come to that point shortly. I must also point out that there is a check on those Members. Here, we find that Members can get their salary irrespective of the fact whether they attend the meetings or not. Even if they do not attend the meetings, they can get their salary here.

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"Let us approve of what has been done. But so far as the future is concerned, I think it would be in the interest of all if the above provision is deleted from the Bill. No doubt it may be argued that in the Centre such facilities are being given and so many thousands of rupees have been spent on that account. I think it is wrong and at least, so far as our State is concerned, I feel it would be proper for the Ministers not to have such free facilities.

"With this I close my speech."

* JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make some observations about the Bill in connexion with the salaries of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Ministers and Members of the Legislature. Some of the observations that have been made, it appears to me, are quite nauseating. No doubt a decision concerning our own personal interests is even morbid.

"As Members of the Legislatures, we leave our homes, for sometime. We spend a lot of our time attending not only meetings of the Legislature but also in trying to redress the grievances of the public in so many other ways. I am aware that the Hon. Leader of the House has stated that the original Bill has lapsed. I do not agree with him. It might have been suspended on account of the Constitution. We have only to re-enact it as it were and put it on a proper legal basis, so that the salaries and allowances we have drawn previously might be regularised. That must be the real object of this measure that has now been placed before this House. Whatever our salaries may be, we do not want anything more for ourselves. We do not like to appear to be 'mercenary'. I am more concerned with the future generation of Members who will adorn the Legislature of the State. I think it would be better to leave it to *them* to enhance their salaries so that they could sacrifice their time more profitably and devote more of their time for doing public work.

"The hon. Member Mr. Swaminathan has given very useful information on the practice obtaining in the Parliament of Ceylon. The hon. Member mentioned that if a Member of Parliament were to absent himself for a day in the House, his salary would be deducted for that day. I wish for some such regulation in respect of attendance of Members of the Legislature in this House also.

"As I have said previously we should not be 'Mercenaries'. As M.L.As. we have got some responsibility and we must be paid enough to carry on our avocations. It is true that Ministers are over-worked. In the mornings they are worried with visitors. Even till late at night, they have to look into the files. During the day they are worried here in this House, by us. Therefore their salaries must be adequate and commensurate with their work. At the same time we must see that sufficient work is exacted from them.

"One thing I want to say regarding the allowances paid to the Members of the Legislature. Some of us come from distant

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places. The cost of living in the city is very high. My hon. Friend Mr. Fernandez is living in the city itself, so he may not feel the difficulty of the situation. One has not only to attend the Assembly Meetings, but also has to go to certain officers and attend to other public work also. I do wish that the daily allowance is raised to something like 20 to 25 rupees a day. I hope that the Leader of the House who is in charge of this Bill would consider what I have said and see that the daily allowance given is proportionate with the work the Members of the Legislature have to do.

"With these observations, Sir, I would like to support the Bill that has been placed before this House."

* MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, whilst I appreciate the noble ideals that motivated the views expressed by my hon. Friend, Dr. Ramachandra Rao, I feel, Sir, that he had not been practical in what he had advocated. It has been said that the Ministers' salaries should not be enhanced. When you ask for the reduction of the salaries of the Government Officials, you are told that it is not possible inasmuch as they are paid according to the work they have to do. But when it comes to the question of raising the salaries of Ministers, objections are raised.

"There was Gandhiji's ideal before them and they had to make people believe that they meant what they said. They first agreed to take Rs. 500 and later raised it to Rs. 1,000. Now we all feel that they are paid most inadequately—of course, there may be a few persons who may take the other view—for it is quite natural for a person to be looked upon with greater respect if he draws a high salary than the one who gets less; even though it may be that the latter works with a lofty ideal. However, we are not so made as to take the view that one should practise an ideal at one's own expense, although we shall be very glad if honorary workers come forward for public service. We will have respect for honorary men, we will admire them and nobody will grudge praise for them. But to say that the tax-payer's money is being wasted on high salaries to public servants—I mean the Ministers—is the height of folly. As some hon. Members pointed out, the tax-payer's money is wasted in so many other ways. If we pay decent salaries to Ministers, we are putting the tax-payer's money to a good use. We pay them for the service rendered by them. We cannot expect them to be lofty-minded and give honorary service to the State. Of course, there are countries where people work for nothing. They do not expect any reward. That is another matter. But when we are extracting work from the Ministers, when we have charged them with the great responsibility of running the administration of the State and looking after the welfare of millions of people in the State, we ought to remunerate them properly.

"As regards the Members of the Legislature, it is not necessary for us to speak of the Members of the future House."

3-30
p.m.

[Sri R. V. Swaminathan] [31st August 1951]

My hon. Friend Sri Raghavayya said that the Members in Ceylon were getting Rs. 50 per day as allowance. I should think that he is not in possession of the correct information. The fact is this. If any Member in Ceylon Parliament does not attend the meeting on a particular day, he will lose Rs. 50 or so for that day. Thus attendance of Members during meetings is more or less compulsory. If a Member is absent for more than ten days or so, he will lose practically the entire amount of his salary. Thus a check is provided on the Members. Here also we can introduce such a procedure. Again, instead of giving the Members travelling allowance at the rate of 1½ first-class and all that, they can be allowed free travel. In Ceylon and in other countries like England, Parliament Members are given free travel facility when they travel within their own country. Further, if a Parliament or Legislature is a Member of the Inter Parliamentary Association, the Members of that Parliament or Legislature are allowed concessional rates of travel when they travel in other countries. We can also do the same thing if the Madras Assembly could become a Member of the Inter Parliamentary Association. I am placing these points before the hon. Members so that they could take every aspect into consideration and reconsider the whole matter. Hon. Sri Gopala Reddi wanted me to tell what are the other amenities enjoyed by Members in other countries. This is one of them and the Government can certainly move in the matter and afford necessary facilities to the Members of this House also. To-day, if we want a letter paper, we have to apply for the same. It is really below the dignity of a Member to apply for two letter papers and get it. I cannot understand such a procedure.

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"In the Parliament of Ceylon, for example, every Member is supplied letter-pads wherein his name, address and all that is printed on the top. For instance, if I were a Member of Parliament, Mr. R. V. Swaminathan, M.P. would be there in print. But what is happening in our legislature? Even for writing two letters we have to apply for letter papers. I say, Sir, this is really ugly.

"Besides certain other facilities to which he is entitled, a Member of Parliament in Ceylon is entitled to 'free travel' in the train from his place of residence to the legislature. He can bring his own car in the train. Suppose a Member does not bring his car, he can write to the Secretary to the Legislature there or the Speaker that he is not bringing his car. For this he will get an additional sum of Rs. 75. Therefore besides his monthly salary of Rs. 600 he will get Rs. 75 more, thus totalling Rs. 675 in all. There the Members are able to lead a dignified life.

"Here the case is different. Members of Legislatures are not able to maintain a decent standard. It is because they are not given adequate salaries, they have to seek employment somewhere.

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"I am saying all these, for the future members who are going to sit not in this House but in the new Buildings at Government House. The Government should raise the salaries of the Ministers also."

* SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is rather a very delicate matter to speak on one's own salary and the salaries of the Ministers. Let us examine the position and find out whether we are acting in the proper manner. It has been pointed out that the salaries of the Ministers are inadequate. Comparisons have been made with the salaries of the Ministers and Members of other Houses of Parliament in other countries. But I would only ask them to compare the salaries of the Ministers and Members of this Legislature and the income of the common-man in our State with that of the salaries of Ministers and the average income of the common-man in those countries. We will then realise that our proportion of salaries are at least five to six times the proportion prevailing in other countries. I only want all the members to understand that we are here not as representatives of ourselves but as the representatives of the general community and stand for principles. I mean that we represent the millions of the poor men who are struggling for their very existence and want to do justice for them.

"It was the advice of our revered Gandhiji that Ministers should not draw expensive salaries. That a Minister should be paid enough for his maintenance and that of his family in a decent manner, was Gandhiji's considered advice to all congressmen. It was in accordance with that view it was decided that Ministers should draw only Rs. 500 per mensem when the Congress first came into power.

"Reducing our salaries, does not mean that we are reducing our status, nor would the raising our salary increase it. It is only to show to the world that an Indian, by leading an ordinary, simple life, can administer much more ably and efficiently than others drawing big salaries and leading pompous lives.

"It has also been argued that by increasing the salaries of the Members by 10 or 12 rupees, we are not going to alter the general revenues to a great extent. I ask: 'Is this increase commensurate with our principle as laid down by the Congress in the interest of the poor man, whom we represent in this Assembly'. We must know that it would be at the expense of the poor taxpayer, however small it may be.

"I therefore entirely approve of the sentiments expressed by the hon. Gentleman Dr. D. S. Ramachandra Rao who has laid down the principles on which we should work. One thing more. I want to say, before closing. I find under clause 10 of this Bill that Ministers and their families have to be treated free in Government Hospitals. I really ask a serious question. When the common-man, I mean, the man in the street is not able to have a few doses of medicine for his as well as his family's treatment, is it really justifiable that the Ministers—not only the Ministers, but their families also—should be treated freely?

[Sri L. N. Gopalaswami] [31st August 1951]

"Let us approve of what has been done. But so far as the future is concerned, I think it would be in the interest of all if the above provision is deleted from the Bill. No doubt it may be argued that in the Centre such facilities are being given and so many thousands of rupees have been spent on that account. I think it is wrong and at least, so far as our State is concerned, I feel it would be proper for the Ministers not to have such free facilities.

"With this I close my speech."

* JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make some observations about the Bill in connexion with the salaries of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Ministers and Members of the Legislature. Some of the observations that have been made, it appears to me, are quite nauseating. No doubt a decision concerning our own personal interests is even morbid.

"As Members of the Legislatures, we leave our homes, for sometime. We spend a lot of our time attending not only meetings of the Legislature but also in trying to redress the grievances of the public in so many other ways. I am aware that the Hon. Leader of the House has stated that the original Bill has lapsed. I do not agree with him. It might have been suspended on account of the Constitution. We have only to re-enact it as it were and put it on a proper legal basis, so that the salaries and allowances we have drawn previously might be regularised. That must be the real object of this measure that has now been placed before this House. Whatever our salaries may be, we do not want anything more for ourselves. We do not like to appear to be 'mercenary'. I am more concerned with the future generation of Members who will adorn the Legislature of the State. I think it would be better to leave it to them to enhance their salaries so that they could sacrifice their time more profitably and devote more of their time for doing public work.

"The hon. Member Mr. Swaminathan has given very useful information on the practice obtaining in the Parliament of Ceylon. The hon. Member mentioned that if a Member of Parliament were to absent himself for a day in the House, his salary would be deducted for that day. I wish for some such regulation in respect of attendance of Members of the Legislature in this House also.

"As I have said previously we should not be 'Mercenaries'. As M.L.As. we have got some responsibility and we must be paid enough to carry on our avocations. It is true that Ministers are over-worked. In the mornings they are worried with visitors. Even till late at night, they have to look into the files. During the day they are worried here in this House, by us. Therefore their salaries must be adequate and commensurate with their work. At the same time we must see that sufficient work is exacted from them.

"One thing I want to say regarding the allowances paid to the Members of the Legislature. Some of us come from distant

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places. The cost of living in the city is very high. My hon. Friend Mr. Fernandez is living in the city itself, so he may not feel the difficulty of the situation. One has not only to attend the Assembly Meetings, but also has to go to certain officers and attend to other public work also. I do wish that the daily allowance is raised to something like 20 to 25 rupees a day. I hope that the Leader of the House who is in charge of this Bill would consider what I have said and see that the daily allowance given is proportionate with the work the Members of the Legislature have to do.

"With these observations, Sir, I would like to support the Bill that has been placed before this House."

* MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, whilst I appreciate the noble ideals that motivated the views expressed by my hon. Friend, Dr. Ramachandra Rao, I feel, Sir, that he had not been practical in what he had advocated. It has been said that the Ministers' salaries should not be enhanced. When you ask for the reduction of the salaries of the Government Officials, you are told that it is not possible inasmuch as they are paid according to the work they have to do. But when it comes to the question of raising the salaries of Ministers, objections are raised.

"There was Gandhiji's ideal before them and they had to make people believe that they meant what they said. They first agreed to take Rs. 500 and later raised it to Rs. 1,000. Now we all feel that they are paid most inadequately—of course, there may be a few persons who may take the other view—for it is quite natural for a person to be looked upon with greater respect if he draws a high salary than the one who gets less, even though it may be that the latter works with a lofty ideal. However, we are not so made as to take the view that one should practise an ideal at one's own expense, although we shall be very glad if honorary workers come forward for public service. We will have respect for honorary men, we will admire them and nobody will grudge praise for them. But to say that the tax-payer's money is being wasted on high salaries to public servants—I mean the Ministers—is the height of folly. As some hon. Members pointed out, the tax-payer's money is wasted in so many other ways. If we pay decent salaries to Ministers, we are putting the tax-payer's money to a good use. We pay them for the service rendered by them. We cannot expect them to be lofty-minded and give honorary service to the State. Of course, there are countries where people work for nothing. They do not expect any reward. That is another matter. But when we are extracting work from the Ministers, when we have charged them with the great responsibility of running the administration of the State and looking after the welfare of millions of people in the State, we ought to remunerate them properly.

"As regards the Members of the Legislature, it is not necessary for us to speak of the Members of the future House."

3-30
p.m.

[Mr. W. J. Fernandez] [31st August 1951]

"They know how to safeguard their interests. They may not be content with Rs. 150 but may ask for even Rs. 500. The party in power then will look into their claims. They may ask for double or treble the travelling allowance we draw now. All these matters can very well be left to be considered by the new House because they can look after themselves."

* JANAB SINNA KAZIAR HAJI MOULVI S. A. F. IBRAHIM :—
"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was very interesting to hear so many hon. Members expressing different views. But we should be practical in making suggestions. All these high-sounding philosophies and tall talks would be quite alright for platform speakers, but not for us. In the ever changing world we should also change. It is no use our citing Gandhiji's admonition in the matter of receipt of salary by Congress Ministers or the case of the East India Company's servants. We are in the year 1951. Conditions have considerably changed to-day. The chief thing that we have to consider is the change in circumstances. It is really a pity, Sir, that our Ministers are not at all sensitive. (Laughter.) Why should they allow themselves to be treated in a step-motherly manner while the Ministers at the Centre draw fat salaries and live in palatial buildings. Do they find it delicate to fight their own case? I feel that to say that our Ministers should take less by way of salary—whatever be the reason for it—is preposterous and perverse. This reminds me of a story which I beg leave to narrate. Once a mother sent her boy to a cattle fair asking him to purchase a cow there. She gave him strict instruction that he should go in for such a cow which was young and small, which would eat less grass and eject more dung (laughter) and which would give a good quantity of milk. Similarly we try to pay our Ministers less and expect them to give us more service. These poor Ministers are almost killed with work day and night. Work has increased four times what it was during the days of East India Company or the days of Gandhiji and Sri C. Rajagopalachariar. If we want them to work for Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000—excuse me, Sir, if I use somewhat strong expression—I do not know where we are to be sent, perhaps to the lunatic asylum. (Laughter.) (An hon. Member: 'What about ordinary Members?'). I shall come to that later. The pay that is given to the Ministers should be in keeping with their status. It should be on the same scale as that of the Central Ministers. Our Ministers do double the amount of work turned out by the Central Ministers. Even though the Ministers are not going to be kind towards us, (laughter) as a human being, I feel that they must be paid more. After all we are going to be here four or five months more and we do not expect the Ministers to do us any favour by making such suggestions. It is only fair, we feel, that the Ministers must be paid proper salaries. We should be outspoken on such matters and not simply indulge in 'high thinking and simple living'. What is the condition to-day? Suppose I become a Minister and am asked to take a salary of Rs. 50. What will I do? I will

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certainly make Rs. 50,000 by other means to make up for the meagre pay. (Laughter.) Let us pay them sufficiently so that they may keep up their prestige and position. Their residence, conveyance and other paraphernalia must be compatible with their status. They cannot walk or go in a country cart and eat straw and grass to set an example for others. They represent the people of the State. Their respect is the State's respect. Their position is the State's position. If we do not honour them the outside world will laugh at us. Then, Sir, I come to the proposed sanitary arrangements in the new Legislators' hostel. We are going to have a curious thing there shortly. Those of us who have travelled in the South by train would have seen people sitting in front of one another on either side of the railway track, early in the mornings, and easing themselves. This is most barbarous. Such a thing is going to happen in our hostel also one day (laughter) for there is only one bath-room for every four Members. Are they to stand in a queue if they want to get into the bath room? (Laughter.) Certainly they cannot attend to their work simultaneously. (Laughter.) Therefore, Sir, there should be one bath-room for each Member. The Government should not plead want of funds. Lord Morley, who was the Mayor of London for three consecutive terms, has said that the status of a Corporation or a Government can be judged by the amount of the debts it has. If the Hon. the Minister borrows money, does it mean that he is taking that money home? No. He spends it for the people. So let me tell him, 'Do not be afraid of borrowing; (laughter) borrow more and more and spend; take good salary (laughter) and give more D.A. and T.A. to Members.' What is the present D.A., Rs. 12-8-0 for? Is it enough to purchase snuff or cigarette? Sir, I want to be outspoken here also. It is not for myself that I speak. I have always free boarding and lodging in my friend's place. This D.A. of Rs. 12-8-0 is decidedly scanty. At least it must be Rs. 25. Why should the M.P.s. get Rs. 45, a day; while we get only Rs. 12-8-0? After all what is the difference in the cost of living here and in Delhi? It is the same.

"Now a few words about the salary. My plea is not for us but for the new Members to be elected. Why should we get Rs. 150, five rupees per diem? (Laughter.) A labourer in Burma or Ceylon gets Rs. 7-8-0 per diem. It is rather ridiculous that a member of the Legislature should get Rs. 5 per day. I feel it awkward to take my salary bill to the Treasury and I do not go. The Officer who passes it gets about Rs. 400 while I get only Rs. 150. The salary must be at least Rs. 250. Pay the M.L.As. well; pay the Ministers well. What do they do at the Centre? There is no point in dragging in the name of Gandhiji. Do we live as Gandhiji wanted us to live? Do we follow his advice? The world is changing. Days are changing and we have to change. What was the cost of living then and what is it now? All these things must be taken into consideration because Ministers must be above temptation and above suspicion.

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We must pay them properly and get proper work done by them. With these words, Sir, I support the Bill not for us but for those who are to succeed us.

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRODDIN :— Mr. Speaker, Sir, since this Bill will be in force for another four or five months, i.e., until the elections and since thereafter the new Legislature will have to re-consider the matter, I do not propose to oppose this measure. The Hon. the Ministers and legislators may continue to draw for the next four or five months the same salary as they have been drawing hitherto. But I am sorry to note, as is apparent from the remarks of previous speakers, that there is a growing tendency on the part of those who are in authority—whether they are Ministers or ordinary legislators—to get their salaries increased. I deprecate this tendency for I feel that the cost of administration should not in any way be increased, in this country, if it cannot be reduced. Each country must cut its coat according to its cloth, in other words it must regulate its expenditure according to its resources. It is no use giving instances of what is done in America and the United Kingdom. We have to see whether our country can afford the cost, particularly in view of the increase in the number of those wielding power. To-day we are 214 Members in this House. But the next Legislature will have 375 Members. To-day there are 12 Ministers in this State, but after the next elections we may have 16 or even 20 Ministers and a like number of Parliamentary Secretaries. The point that will have to be considered is whether the State will be in a position to impose a further burden on its already heavy cost of administration. If there were to be only four Ministers in this State just as we had four Advisers previously I would not mind each of them getting a salary of even four or five thousand rupees. But now that the number of the heads of the administration has increased, their salaries must be commensurate with the resources of this State. My point is that the country is not in a position to afford higher salaries either for Ministers or for legislators. I am afraid this State will be heading towards bankruptcy if insistence is made in regard to this matter. In the interest of the country, I wish to advise those in authority not to make speeches pleading for an increase in their salaries as they have done to-day. Since India is a poor country one hundred and fifty rupees a month that is given to a legislator is quite sufficient. I am glad to find, that one of the items mentioned in the Congress Election Manifesto is the harnessing of the services of voluntary workers. The time has arrived when the spirit of voluntary service should be aroused in the people of this land and the high ideals for which Congress stood in the past once again revived. There is a growing need in this land for utilizing the services of men and women with leisure on a voluntary basis. If this country is to emerge from its present morass, the high ideals of the past should be revived. Otherwise, I am afraid, the future of the country is dark and bleak.

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* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :— Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the art of revenue, the art of expenditure has come to be considered by this House. I am afraid, Sir, when a country like India is not able to meet the expenditure in respect of the salaries of the Government and its legislators, it is not worthwhile to comment upon the salaries at all. It is much better that the future Legislatures are composed of people who are prepared to serve the people honorarily. Sir, in other States, I have found that only elderly people, after having retired from some profession or calling, take up public service and stand for representative bodies and give the country the benefit of their experience. They are not in need of a salary or any support from the Legislature. It is only those who can afford to do honest work that are required as representatives of the people. The organizations in the country which select representatives must make the people understand clearly that the representatives of the people in the Legislature should be above suspicion and that only those people who are above want should be selected. The country should be educated in this respect as it is undesirable to continue to pay salaries to legislators. Even a labourer can afford to do work as a representative of the people without receiving salaries and discharge his duties as honestly as a rich man can do. It is wrong to think that the dignity of the members of the Legislature depends upon the amount of salary they draw or the amount of money they possess. I know that there are many representatives in foreign countries, as well as in our own country and in this very Legislature too who are very honest though they are poor. In fact it is impossible to pay in terms of money for all the services rendered by our representatives. Sir, I do not follow the argument of the hon. Gentleman Mr. Sinna Kaziar that one has to live comfortably to discharge his duty efficiently and successfully. I am very sorry, Sir, that one's conception of comfort of life depends upon the vista of one's mind. I do not agree with this. Public service has always some discomfort with it. I know the Hon. Ministers are hard worked. Why do they work hard? It is certainly not for the thousand or thousand and five hundred rupees they are receiving as salary. I do not want such Ministers on the Treasury Bench to rule this State. Whatever be the consideration they must discharge their duties honestly. It is only people who can afford to honestly represent the people and be above suspicion that must be elected. Therefore a duty is cast upon us to see that we advocate for such honest representatives who can come and sit in this Assembly and deliberate over the fates of millions of people in the State and not those who depend on salaries and allowances.

SRI D. KADIRAPPA :—“ అధ్యక్షా, ఈ బిల్లులో, గౌరవనీయులైన మంత్రుల యొక్కయు, M.L.A. ల యొక్కయు, జిల్లాలు, జిల్లాలు ఎక్కువ చేయడము సూచించుచుండినట్లు చాలామంది సభ్యులు మాట్లాడుచుండగా నాకు అర్థమైనది. కాని, ఇప్పుడున్న మనంకి పరిస్థితులలో, రాష్ట్రములో ఒక ప్రక్కన

[Sri D. Kadirappa] [31st August 1951]

వర్షాలు లేకుండా పంటలు లేక రైతులు వాడపడుతూ యుండగా, ఇంకొక ప్రక్కన ఎక్కువగా వర్షాలవల్ల, వరిదలవల్ల, పంట పంటలు కూడా నాశనమై రైతులు నానా కష్టాలు పడుతుండగా, మంత్రులు, ముఖ్యులు M.L.A. లు ఇచ్చట అసెంబ్లీ సీట్లలో కూర్చొని మన ఇష్టప్రకారము మన జీతాలు ఎక్కువ చేసుకొంటూ ఉండి కాలము గాఢు ఇది. రైతులయొక్క పరిస్థితి చాలా ఉండి వారు మనతో సహనమానంగా ఉండటమే కాక అంటే, మొదట్లో 500 రూపాయలే కాదు, 1,000 రూపాయల వరకు జీతము పొందుతూ ఉండేవారు. కాని, ఇప్పుడుంటే పరిస్థితులలో, ఇది చేయడానికే అసాధ్యం. రైతులకు అనేకమైన గుత్తలు వేస్తున్నారు. వాటిని భరించ లేక వాడపడుతున్నారు. ఇంకొకవిషయ మేమనగా శనిక్కాయ పంటకు, ఎకరాకు 1½ రూపాయ ప్రకారము రైతులు కట్టవలసివస్తు కూడా నాకు తెలుస్తున్నది. ఇట్లు ఇప్పుటికి గుత్తలు ఎంతో అధికముగా వేస్తుండగా, ఇంకను అధికముగా రైతులకు గుత్తలు వేసి M.L.A. ల యొక్కయు, మంత్రులయొక్కయు జీతములు, బత్తాలు ఎక్కువ చేసుకొనుటకు విలాటి అవకాశములేదని, దయ ఉంచి అటువంటి పరిస్థితికి రావు లేకుండా చూడవలెనని నా అభిప్రాయము.

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Attlee when he faced elections in Great Britain in 1950 carried on the election tour, travelling in a small rickety car, his wife driving it and he himself speaking through a mike. "

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" What has that to do here? "

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" I am coming to the point. That is what is expected of the Hon. Ministers at election times. I entirely agree with Begum Sultan Mir Amirudin when she said that this country was a poor country and that we should take salaries in consonance with its position. Sir, I will speak only for a few minutes on the tours of the Hon. Ministers for it affects this Bill. In the past, what did we see? The Auditor-General of India has said: 'I am getting headache in trying to find out whether these tours are really for administrative work or for private work and it is impossible even for the Gods in Heaven to find out whether these tours are for administrative or private purposes.' So I will leave it to the Hon. Ministers themselves and let them examine it conscientiously whether these tours are for administrative or for private purposes or for Congress election propaganda. To some extent, we expect the Hon. Ministers kindly to consider how far these tours are necessary. They may in the shape of salary take more money, but taking money through tours is wrong in principle. On an average each Hon. Minister is getting a thousand rupees not only as salary but also a substantial amount as travelling allowance. I state this subject to correction. I am not objecting to such large amounts being drawn by them as travelling allowance but I would like that the tours are undertaken by the Hon. Ministers strictly for administrative purposes. I say this because they are going to have a great reaction on the future of democracy in this country. Somehow or other we are following the democratic principles of foreign countries. We are not going to have a care-taker Government to

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be in charge of elections. The same Ministers will continue to be in authority and fight the elections and are going to be candidates at the elections. The State is going to pay for the party bosses and for the Hon. the Finance Minister and the Hon. the Revenue Minister when they go on tour and do some election propaganda. There are no two opinions that these Ministers are entitled to do election propaganda. But what was our experience in the past? We had some chronic cases: Sri Ayanashilingam Chetti leaving for Coimbatore and Sri Kurmayya leaving for Vijayavada, their native places. Now we have the Hon. Sri Chandramouli leaving for Tenali and the Hon. Sri Gopala Reddi leaving for Nellore. I don't grudge them these tours. But are our people satisfied that these tours are undertaken by the Ministers purely for administrative purposes? We find from newspaper reports, for instance, the Hon. Finance Minister going to Tenali one morning and returning to Madras the next day after attending a function or two there, and again another Minister going to Visakhapatnam the same day attending two or three functions and returning to headquarters after staying at the place for two or three days. Again another Minister goes to Eluru and returns to headquarters. Again the Hon. Chief Minister goes to Coimbatore. At the same time the Hon. Law Minister and possibly another Minister also are already there at the same time. One Minister opens a choultry, another Minister open a cinema house and a third opens a cattle show. All these tours and activities can be co-ordinated if the Ministers have a plan and one Minister can attend to all these.

" Sir, His Excellency the Governor whenever he toured the 4 p.m. districts received petitions, heard the petitioners, and told them that he would make his remarks on the petitions and representations and send them on to the Ministers concerned for further action. The Hon. Ministers passes final orders on those petitions. I ask, Sir, why should not Hon. Ministers also follow this procedure. The Hon. Minister for Revenue might go to Bellary or he might go to Guntur. Let him go there. But he should receive whatever petitions are given to him, though they may not relate to his portfolio, and pass them on to the concerned Ministers with his remarks for further action. After all there are bound to be changes in the portfolios among the Ministers. The Hon. Minister for Revenue was Minister for Industries and Labour. To-day he is Minister for Revenue. To-morrow he may become the Minister for Transport. They are changing. The Hon. Chief Minister is in charge of a number of portfolios. The Hon. Minister for Land Revenue was selected by the Government of India to represent them at the International Labour Conference. Our Hon. Ministers are capable of handling any subject, and so they can hear complaints on any subject. We have got such a capable team of Ministers in Madras. People do not need the particular Minister to hear their complaints. The Hon. the Minister for Transport can hear complaints on land revenue, receive petitions and send them on with his remarks to the Minister concerned. That is what His Excellency is doing. I say, Sir,

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without fear of contradiction, that if there had been co-ordination among the Ministers this Government could effect a good lot of savings. Let them so arrange the tours that each Minister tours some specified districts and receives petitions irrespective of the portfolio held by him. This is not done.

"This is all about the past. Let me say a few words about the future, Sir. According to the Leader of the House it is their right and prerogative—the party in power, simply because they happen to be in the Government—to work for the party and also go about working for themselves. But, Sir, there should be a limit for anything. Whatever conventions are left behind by this Government will guide the future Governments and Ministers. I know personally that Hon. Ministers have gone to the districts in connexion with district board elections. They have gone to the districts in connexion with the Congress Pradesh elections. They have gone on tours for purposes of attending marriage functions, opening of cinemas and all that. But at least in the interests of the future—leave alone the past whatever that might be—and in view of the fact that feelings will be running high during the coming elections, people going before the electorate with their manifesto and clashing with each other, it is not good that a State should pay a Minister these expenses simply because he happens to be a Minister, a Congress Minister, and the Constitution allows it, to enable him to go and work for his candidate. Are not the other political parties handicapped by this? The Government may allow this; the Constitution may allow this; the laws may allow this; these are perfectly all right. It may be so in England and America. People there know how to behave. They have conscience and I know of instances where they have said 'Thus far and no further'. I will quote the case of a great man referred to in Muslim theology. Hasrat Omar was in a room having a small lamp. One of his friends came into his room and began to talk with him. After talking for about two minutes the Hasrat put out the light and asked his friend to continue his talk. The friend was surprised and asked the Hasrat what the matter was. The Halifa said: 'I was doing some public duty. The light and the oil belong to the public. Since you began to talk about private matters, I do not want to waste the oil.' Sir, let us search our conscience and say how far our Governments were acting according to this principle. Sir, Hasrat Omar was not able to decide within those two minutes whether his friend was talking about private business or public business and when once he discovered that it was only private work, he put out the light and saved the oil. Sir, so many things are being done now. We cannot go into them in detail now. We are experimenting with democracy. Therefore I would point out to the Hon. Ministers that if they go on tours for election purposes, as in the past, other political parties would be handicapped. It is not proper that State money should be spent for election purposes. At least in the months to come, the Hon. Ministers should be careful and in the interests of proper administration they should not go on tour for opening or closing functions which they are now doing."

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have not introduced any new principle in the Bill and so I thought it would be passed without much controversy. But my hon. Friend Janab Abdul Hameed Khan started a discussion on this Bill and it was followed up till now. As I said, we have not introduced any new principle in the Bill. Whatever was in vogue from the year 1946 is being kept up. The principle was enunciated in the year 1937 and the amounts were doubled in 1946 due to the cost of living going up. What was accepted in 1946 is being maintained now. I do not know how the Members' salaries, Ministers' salaries and the Speaker's salary are relevant to the discussion when we do not intend to change, enhance or reduce, the present rates but only want to maintain the *status quo*. Therefore I take it that hon. Members who spoke on the Bill were giving out their own views on the matter than strictly make comments on the provisions in the Bill.

"Sir, the hon. Member Sri Viswanatham raised a point whether Article 372 did not keep the old Act alive. Article 372 of the Constitution keeps alive all the Acts but where there is a specific provision that specific provision must have overriding effect over Article 372. Article 164 of the Constitution says that the salaries and allowances of Ministers shall be such as the Legislature of the State may from time to time by law determine and, until the Legislature of the State so determines, shall be as specified in the Second Schedule. So we are now governed by the Second Schedule and not by the old Act. The old Act has gone. Though Article 372 kept it alive, Article 164 comes into being as far as Ministers', Members', and other's salaries are concerned. Therefore we thought that a new legislation must be undertaken by this House without relying on the Second Schedule and have come forward with this new Bill but with the old provisions. No new principles are involved though it is altogether a new Bill. It will be called the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Act, 1951. The Government of India have also ruled and have asked the Government to undertake legislation in the matter. Our own Legal department have held that where there is a specific provision like this it cannot be subordinated to the general provisions contained in Article 372. That is our plea for taking up this question now.

"Of course, Sir, from January 26th, 1950 there was no Act at all to provide for these things. We could not undertake any amendment to the Act though there was need on certain matters. We wanted to undertake an amending legislation but it was held by the Accountant-General and our Legal department that since the Act itself had lapsed and since we were governed only by the Second Schedule, we could only undertake fresh legislation. So we are only doing that now, and nothing new has been introduced in the Bill except to double up what was brought into effect by the Hon. Sri Rajagopalachariar as Chief Minister and Finance Minister in the year 1937. So, Sir, the question of enhancing or reducing the Ministers' salaries may be discussed at an appropriate

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ument by the appropriate authority, perhaps after the elections. We do not propose to do anything new now on the eve of the elections specially when we are not conceding the enhancement of the dearness allowance or house rent allowance to innumerable Government servants. After all it will have an immediate repercussion on their demands also. If by any chance the Members or Ministers or others' salaries are enhanced to-day immediately the non-gazetted officers or even the Gazetted officers will think about it and say 'Now that the salaries of the Ministers themselves are enhanced because the cost of living is going up, there is a case for putting forward our demand before the Government'. So both on financial and political grounds and on grounds of expediency we do not propose to do anything now. It will be left to the new Members of the Assembly and I hope the new Members also will act in a responsible manner. The hon. the Lady Member need not fear that there is a growing tendency on the part of the legislators and Ministers concerned to enhance their own salaries. I do not think there need be any fear or apprehension on that score. I do not think the members of any Legislature, or Ministers of any Government have done anything to feather their own nests. We can say that there has not been any enhancement though of course people might talk in the drawing room or elsewhere about it. No serious proposal has been made to enhance the Ministers or the Members' salaries. Of course I do not want to go into the question whether their salaries are adequate or not. After all it is not relevant or germane to the issue before us and must be left to a future occasion to be decided by the proper authority.

"In this connexion I would like to have a more or less uniform policy throughout India. Just now though we are all State Governments functioning under the Indian Union, there does not seem to be any uniformity about it because I know in U.P. and Bihar Ministers get 15 hundred rupees plus a well furnished house with cutlery and crockery, motorcar free of taxation, the entire cost of maintenance being met by Government. Here it is only Rs. 1,000 plus a house rent allowance of Rs. 250 and a conveyance allowance of Rs. 250. In Orissa the Ministers are not given any car at all. They get just Rs. 1,000. These are variations and I do not know whether the Government of India might move in the matter or whether it is left to the Congress High Command to move in the matter. No, I do not think they can. It is left to the legislatures and Governments concerned to move in the matter. But whatever it is I should like to have uniformity in this matter throughout the Indian Union. Here again some hon. Members have objected to the consolidated sum of Rs. 1,500 being allowed to the Ministers, because they say the poor man is getting only a low income in our country and the salaries of Hon. Ministers must be proportionate with the income derived by an agriculturist or a peasant. Here again I want to point out that the Government of India Ministers draw at least Rs. 3,400, Ministers of State about Rs. 3,000, Deputy Ministers about Rs. 2,000. In places like Bombay where perhaps the cost of living is as much as at Delhi even

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the Chief Minister gets round about a thousand rupees. It is therefore my earnest hope that some day all the Finance Ministers of States including the Finance Minister of the Government of India would sit together and come to some conclusion that there should be some sort of uniformity. This may be related to the cost of living index or related to the income of the peasant or the agriculturist. Whatever it is I wish there is some uniformity. At present there is no uniformity at all.

"Sir, the other point was about the medical attendance. Hon. Members, Sri Raghavayya and Gopalaswami, objected to the Hon. Ministers and the members of their family getting concession for treatment in hospitals. Even with regard to this, Sir, only Rs. 628 has been spent so far right from the year 1946 up to date. The hon. Sri Veeraswamy was in the hospital for about 60 days, the late Srimathi Lakshmipathi was there for about 10 days, inclusive of all that the amount came to Rs. 628 only. The Hon. Sri Kumaraswami Raja was in the hospital for one day, that is, on the 28th February 1947, the late Mr. Daniel Thomas stayed in the Hospital for about 49 days, the Hon. Sri Perumalsami Reddi was there for about 54 days. These were the number of days when Hon. Ministers were in the hospital as in-patient. Previously Government used to feel that whatever was applicable to Government servants drawing Rs. 500 and more was applicable to Hon. Ministers as well. These Government servants are allowed certain medical concessions as in-patients. So when Hon. Ministers stayed in the hospitals as in-patients money was paid to the hospital account on this basis. But later on the Accountant-General took objection to it and said there was no provision in the Act itself and that this should have the sanction and approval of the Legislature. That is the ruling which the Accountant-General has given and while providing for that we want to include Ministers and members of their families also because we are just putting them on a par with Government servants drawing salaries of over Rs. 500 per month. During the last five years only an amount of Rs. 628 has been spent on this account and I do not think hon. Members need grudge giving this little concession. After all it is no pleasure for us to go to the hospitals and be admitted as in-patients. Hon. the Law Minister was recently ill and he paid about Rs. 2,000 for medical expenses. Therefore, Sir, we can leave it safely to the discretion of the Hon. Ministers that they will not abuse this privilege. Besides there is no new principle and the hon. Members need not object to this little concession being given to the Ministers.

Then, Sir, hon. Member, Mr. Salam, has said many things about the tours of Ministers and their travelling allowances. As an hon. Member of this House, he has every right to say whatever he feels. But, I think it will be more appropriate if he criticizes the Ministers' salaries and allowances during the Budget discussion than on this Bill. He has been expressing these views for a very long time; and, of course, it is up to us to see whether we conform to public duties or it is merely for something else that we undertake tours. It is a matter to be gone into by individual Ministers. Of course, the Accountant-General also raises queries sometimes.

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"With regard to other matters whether the Ministers can tour at public expenses for conducting election campaigns, etc., I only wish to say that they are all being looked into by the Election Commissioner who will issue uniform instructions to all the State Governments as to how the Ministers should conduct their own election tours and election campaigns. We shall try to conform to the instructions given by him and not conduct our election campaigns at public expense. These instructions are yet to come and there is time still left for considering all these aspects. As I said in the beginning, there is no new principle that has been introduced in this Bill and whatever was in force in 1946 is being retained and we have not changed it at all. Beyond this, I need not say anything at present and would request the House to pass the Bill."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

'That the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'

The motion was carried.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 were put and carried.

Mr. SPEAKER:—"The motion is—

'That clause 12 do stand part of the Bill.'

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, I would like to say to the Leader of the House that he can change the word 'salary' in sub-clause (a) into 'monthly allowance', the sub-clause reading, 'a monthly allowance of one hundred and fifty rupees per mensem, and'. The word 'salary' is causing some inconvenience to several hon. Members because this amount of Rs. 150 is being added to other sources of income for purposes of calculating income-tax. As a matter of fact, it is not a 'salary'. It is only a monthly allowance. Sir, if you will be pleased to see the Travelling Allowance Rules, you will find that, if a Member gives up this salary, he will get excess daily allowance and first-class train fare, etc. Therefore it is really not a 'salary'. We are not full-time Government servants and we are entitled to follow other avocations by which we can make profit or earn other emoluments. A salary can be given to one who is engaged in any particular occupation on full-time basis. That is the real import of the word 'salary'. In our case, it is not a 'salary'. Somehow or other, this word was being used since 1938 copying from English Acts, where the same House has power to pass this as well as Income-tax Acts. When a material difficulty in respect of income-tax is pointed out, it is good that we change it. Sir, as I said in the beginning, if I relinquish this salary, I will be eligible to enhanced allowances. I am therefore asking the Hon. the Minister for Finance whether he can himself move an amendment now, substituting the words 'monthly allowance' in the place of 'salary' in sub-clause (a) with suitable amendments in the following clauses wherever the word 'salary' occurs respecting the Members of this House."

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SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, நண்பர் ஸ்ரீ விஸ்வநாதம் அவர்கள் சொல்லியதை நான் பூரணமாக ஆதரிக்கின்றேன். சட்டசபை அங்கத்தினர்களுக்கு இப்பொழுது கொடுக்கப்படுவதை 'salary' என்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. நான் சொல்லுகின்றேன். சட்டசபை அங்கத்தினர்கள் முழு நேர ஊழியர்களும் அல்ல; அரசாங்க உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களும் அல்ல. அவர்கள் கௌவ அங்கத்தினர்கள். அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படுவதைச் 'சம்பளம்' என்று சொல்லப்படுவதை நாங்கள் எதிர்த்துக் கொண்டே வந்திருக்கின்றோம். இப்பொழுது கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கும் மசோதாவிலும் 'salary' என்று சொல்லப் பட்டிருக்கிறதை 'allowance' என்று திருத்திக் கொள்ள வேண்டியது மிக மிக அவசியம் என்று நான் சொல்லிக் கொள்ளுகின்றேன்."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Sir, this objection was already raised in the Bombay Legislature several times. Later on the question was referred to the Punjab Government whether this was an allowance to be used by the Members for touring their constituencies or whether it was a remuneration. The reply of the Punjab Government was not very helpful even though they held that it was only an allowance. The Income-tax authorities interpreted it otherwise and continued levying income-tax as usual. Barring that, Sir, no other Legislature has raised this question. I wish that we should make it clear now by specifying that it is an allowance intended to cover expenses of a Member to tour his constituency. If that explanation is added to the sub-clause (a), I am told the Income-tax authorities cannot levy tax on this amount. I think it is only an allowance intended for a Member to tour his constituency. It is not an income at all. It is not dignified for a legislator to receive Rs. 150 as salary. He does not come under the Government Servants' Conduct Rules and when no service is made liable on a Member, I do not know how we can call it a 'salary'. I, therefore, suggest that the Government may replace the word 'salary' in sub-clause (a) by a more suitable word and if there is no suitable word, the words 'to be used by the Member for touring his constituency' may be added at the end of the sub-clause after the word 'mensem'."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also would request the Hon. the Minister for Finance to accept the very reasonable and sound amendment suggested by my hon. Friend, Mr. Viswanatham. The word 'salary' is indeed a misnomer. The Members of the Legislature are not receiving salary as they are not full-time workers. As a matter of fact what they get is only an allowance intended to enable them to tour their constituencies. When we send our bill to the bank we feel it derogatory to our dignity to describe this pittance of Rs. 150 as our salary. Members here are as a matter of fact rendering service in an honorary capacity and what they are receiving is by way of conveyance allowance in order to enable them to tour their constituencies."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I ask the Hon. Speaker, to tell us what exactly it is called in the House of Commons?"

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MR. SPEAKER :—" I think, ' salary '."

* JANAB SINNA KAZIAR HAJI MOULVI S. A. F. IBRAHIM :—
" Sir, I would very sincerely request the Hon. Minister for
Finance to accept the amendment suggested by the hon. Member,
Mr. Viswanatham. For heaven's sake, let the Government even
stop this Rs. 150 and increase it to Rs. 250 and call it ' salary '
(Laughter.) The Hon. Minister should also realize the position of
the hon. Members. Members in this House, some of them, are
paying salaries to their staff ranging from Rs. 500 to Rs. 800 per
month; but the same ' Bade Sahib ' as M.L.A. gets only Rs. 150.
(Laughter.) Sir, I made this suggestion even previously. I would
therefore request the Hon. the Minister for Finance to accept this
suggestion and amend the clause suitably. After all he loses
nothing. But the very mood the Hon. Minister is sitting in at
present makes me doubt. (Laughter.) He should not refuse to
be convinced; he should be convinced." (Laughter.)

* JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—" Sir, I rise only on a point
of clarification. The Income-tax department taxes my salary and
some hon. Members told me that their salaries are not taxed. I
do not know the reason."

MR. SPEAKER :—" This is added to ' other income '."

* JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—" Sir, when we draw this
amount, we actually spend it here. It is not our earning; it is not
a profit; on the other hand, we spend monthly nearly Rs. 70 on
cigarettes alone. I do not understand why the Government of
India should come down upon us and add this amount to our
' other income ' and increase the burden of taxation."

4-30
p.m.

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir,
I am prepared to get the matter examined whether, if the amend-
ment as suggested by my hon. Friend, Sri Viswanatham, is accepted
by the Government, it will come under the scrutiny of the Income-
tax department or not. I have my own doubts about it. Even if
I accept the amendment, it will not escape scrutiny by the Income-
tax officials as they will ask whether the amount was really spent.
In other Parliaments and in our own Acts the words used are
' Salary and Allowances '. What should be the salary is a differ-
ent matter. I am not quite clear whether Rs. 150 is salary or
allowance. We shall get it examined."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" It is only allowance and not
salary."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We shall ask the
Income-tax department whether Members can really be exempted
from liability to income-tax if we accept the word ' allowance '
instead of ' salary '. Of course our own Act says . . ."

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* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—" That is one aspect
of the question. Apart from that we do not like the word
' salary '. It is derogatory to the Members of this House."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The Constitution of
India uses the word ' salary '. Section 195 says ' Members of the
Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council of a State shall
be entitled to receive such salaries and allowances as may from
time to time be determined by the Legislature of the State by
law and . . . ' While the Constitution contemplates the giving
of a salary to the hon. Members I do not know why the hon. Mem-
bers should object to the word ' salary '. It is up to the Govern-
ment and the Members to consider what should be the proper
salary which hon. Members of this House should get. Now I can
only promise that I will get the matter examined. May I know,
Sir, whether it is called ' salary ' in other Parliaments? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I am looking into that. I think it is
called ' salary ' in other Parliaments too."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submit
that the Constitution gives us both salaries and allowances. We
do not want salaries but only allowances."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" If you do not want
salaries then there is the alternative of increased daily allowances
and travelling allowances. If the hon. Members do not want to
receive Rs. 150 they will get increased allowances. It is open to
any hon. Member to say ' I do not require any salary '."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" Sir, as the Hon. Minister has
promised to examine the question, I think the matter can be kept
over till to-morrow."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Sir, I beg to submit
that this is a matter which the new Government and the new
Legislature have to consider in the context of the circumstances
then existing and they may take advantage of that occasion to get
this question examined. In the meanwhile, it is no use postpon-
ing it till to-morrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

' That clause 12 do stand part of the Bill '."

The motion was carried.

Clauses 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 were put and carried.

The preamble was put and carried.

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

' That the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of
Disqualifications Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi] [31st August 1951]

Sir, I have no further comments to make except that I am very glad that hon. Members, after a little discussion and without much criticism, have approved of the Bill."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

'That the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Bill, 1951, be passed into law.' "

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

MR. SPEAKER :—" I now adjourn the House till to-morrow 11 o'clock."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 1st September 1951.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 61 asked by Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillay (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa) at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 31st August 1951, page 512 supra]

Name and location of the Industrial Museum.	Financial aid sanctioned during the last three financial years.		
	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
The Central Industrial Museum, Madras.	(1) Rs. 3,000 for publicity purposes. (2) Employment of one guide on Rs. 45-90 and one peon on Rs. 18.	(1) Rs. 5,000 to meet the cost of additional furniture and publicity equipment. (2) Rs. 5,000 to meet the cost of establishment, etc.	Rs. 5,000 to meet the cost of establishment, etc.
The West Godavari Commercial Museum Association, Eluru.	(1) Rs. 2,500 for use as rolling capital of the sales emporium. (2) Rs. 500 for purchase of additional furniture. (3) Rs. 50 towards rent of the building. (4) Employment of one salesman on Rs. 45-90, one attender on Rs. 16 and one watchman on Rs. 18.	Nil.	Nil.
The Cottage Industries Emporium, Tirunelveli.	De.	Nil.	Nil.
The Regional Museum of Cottage and Small Scale Industries—			
Anantapur ..	Nil.	(1) Rs. 4,500 for each museum for preparation of charts and posters, purchase of exhibits, etc., to start the museum.	Rs. 3,288 for each museum towards rent, establishment charges, renewal of exhibits, etc.
Rajamundry ..			
Tiruchirappalli ..			
Madurai ..			
Kozhikode ..			
Vijayavada ..		(2) Rs. 3,288 for each museum towards rent, establishment charges, renewal of exhibits, etc.	
Coimbatore ..			

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 64 asked by Sri P. Venkatasubbiah at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 31st August 1951, pages 514- 1 supra.]

(a) Yes.

(b) Only the following Hydro-Electric and Irrigation Projects that have been sanctioned and are in progress have been included in the Plan.

Irrigation.

- 1 Lower Bhavani Project.
- 2 Malampuzha Reservoir.
- 3 Mettur Canals Scheme.
- 4 Rallapad II Stage.
- 5 Romperu Drain.
- 6 Cauvery Delta Drainage Improvements.
- 7 Manimuthar Project.
- 8 Upper Pennar Project.
- 9 Bhairavanitippa Project.
- 10 Araniar Scheme.
- 11 Walayar Scheme.
- 12 Mangalam Reservoir.
- 13 Tungabhadra Project.

Power.

- 1 Moyar Hydro-Electric Scheme.
- 2 Pykara III stage extensions.
- 3 Papanasam II stage extensions.
- 4 Machkund Scheme (civil works and power station, Madras share).
- 5 Machkund Scheme Transmission line.
- 6 Madras Plant Extensions.
- 7 Nellore Thermal Scheme.
- 8 Madras-Mettur Inter-connection.
- 9 Transmission lines and distribution system.
- 10 Tungabhadra Hydro-Electric Scheme.
- 11 Acquisition of Electrical undertakings.

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(c) Schemes have not been assigned priority as between themselves as they have all been sanctioned.

(d) Development Schemes relating to Rayalaseema are also included in the Plan.

(e) Details of schemes of each department are being finalized.

(f) The Commission called for the views of this Government on the question of creating a non-lapsable Irrigation Development Ways and Means Fund and on the levy of Betterment fees in areas benefited by Irrigation. The Commission has also asked this Government to prepare a Supplementary Plan for the development of Irrigation and Power costing about Rs. 40 crores and it is under the consideration of the Government.

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 65 asked by Sri V. I. Munuswami Pillay (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa) at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 31st August 1951, page 517 supra.]

Statement showing the total value and quantity of timber extracted, quantities consumed in the Madras State and exported and the cost incurred by the Government to extract the timber every year for the last three financial years, i.e., 1948-49 to 1950-51 Madras Forest Department.

Name of circle.	Financial year.	(a) The total value and quantity of timber extracted during the last three financial years by Government agency.		(b) (i) Quantity of timber consumed in the State.		(b) (ii) Quantity of timber exported.	(c) Cost incurred by the Government to extract the timber every year for the last three years.	
		Quantity.	Value.	(5)	(6)		(7)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	C. FT.	RS.	A. P.
Ootacamund	1948-49	882,978	28,81,571 0 0	978,632	101,237		5,57,161 0 0	
Coimbatore	1948-49	231,858 and 2,134 poles	2,86,243 0 0	* 223,308 and 34 poles	Nil		2,48,479 9 3	
Salem	1948-49	4,50	16,398 0 0	4,600	Nil		3,700 0 0	
Bellary	1948-49	37,837	60,458 0 0	37,837	Nil		22,450 0 0	
Total	1948-49	1,186,623 and 2,134 poles	35,44,670 0 0	1,244,427 and 34 poles	101,257		8,31,799 9 3	
Ootacamund	1949-50	1,085,242	37,25,197 0 0	962,462	38,515		6,97,600 0 0	
Coimbatore	1949-50	270,905 and 1,036 poles	6,10,127 0 0	† 252,625 and 3,136 poles	Nil		1,16,194 10 6	
Salem	1949-50	4,367	9,608 0 0	(a) 4,67	Nil		1,754 0 0	
Bellary	1949-50	27,619	44,887 0 0	27,279	(b) 340		14,104 0 0	
Total	1949-50	1,388,133 and 1,036 poles	43,90,139 0 0	1,246,733 and 3,136 poles	38,855		8,78,652 10 6	

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Ootacamund	1950-51	904,119	32,36,302 0 0	1,064,033	30,846		6,30,903 0 0
Coimbatore	1950-51	353,076 and 731 poles	7,88,280 15 6	† 288,760 and 731 poles	Nil		1,15,128 5 0
Salem	1950-51	4,369	9,372 0 0	4,369	Nil		2,838 0 0
Bellary	1950-51	23,833	22,968 0 0	23,833	Nil		2,060 0 0
Total	1950-51	1,285,397 and 731 poles	40,57,922 15 6	1,380,995 and 731 poles	30,846		7,51,539 5 0

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* Quantity consumed includes previous year's stock.

† Quantity consumed includes previous year's stock.

‡ Quantity consumed includes previous year's stock.

(a) In Salem South division, the number of teak poles sold in the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 is not given separately. Hence the total number of teak poles, viz., 2,885 poles, sold in the two years (1949-50 and 1950-51) is shown as being consumed in the year 1949-50 in this statement.

(b) This quantity was sent to Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, for experimental purposes.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, the 1st September 1951.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Payment of 1949 bonus to the textile workers.

* 66 Q.—SRI M. A. EASWARAN (on behalf of Sri R. Kuppuswami): Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Textile Workers' (Congress) Union, Coimbatore district, and the Indian National Trade Union Congress, Tamil Nad, have recently applied to the Government for adjudication for the payment of 1949 bonus to the textile workers;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“(a) Yes, Sir.

“(b) The matter has been referred to the Commissioner of Labour and he is in correspondence with the representatives of the management.

“(c) Does not arise.”

Correspondence in Regional languages.

* 67 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state the districts other than Tiruchirappalli and East Godavari districts in which the correspondence between the district authorities and the public is being carried on in regional languages?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister):—“The experiment has not been extended to any other district in the State.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—“Why has it not been extended? Is it not yielding good and satisfactory results?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It is only an experiment and we want to see the results of the experiment.”

SRI K. LINGA RAJU:—“May I enquire whether the Government are sure that in the two districts where the experiment is carried on, the correspondence is being done in the local language, and whether in the one Telugu district, it is being done in Telugu?”

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Obviously there are certain difficulties and they are not able to get over the difficulties; as far as possible, it is being done."

SRI K. LINGA RAJU :—" May I submit for the consideration of the Government whether the appointment of non-Telugu-knowing officers is responsible for the non-carrying out of this healthy principle? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" That may be true, but as long as the State is one, such things cannot be avoided. Sometimes non-Telugu-knowing people have to be posted to the Telugu districts and *vice versa*, and it cannot be avoided."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" The Hon. Minister just now said that owing to certain difficulties, this principle could not be extended. May I know whether the difficulty is in respect of the Government officials who administer the district or the people who are being administered by them? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The difficulty is with regard to various matters. The ministerial staff, the supervisors, the Assistant Engineers—so many different authorities are involved in this matter. The difficulty may be even for the ministerial staff itself."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" Sir, if the experiment is encouraging, may I ask the Government whether they will consider the desirability of making such an experiment in one of the districts of Rayalaseema? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" If the experiment has been encouraging, we would have extended it already."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" In view of the fact that this kind of experiment will be creating further difficulties, will the Government consider the desirability of deferring it till the new States on a linguistic basis are formed? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" This has nothing to do with the linguistic division of the State; the experiment is now being tried in the Tiruchirappalli and East Godavari districts. Whether the Andhra Province is formed or not is quite a different question. The question here is whether official correspondence should be carried on in the language of the area and whether that is done in the two districts under experiment. We are not in a hurry to extend the experiment or to defer it. We want to see the results of the experiment now being carried on."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" May I know if the Hon. Leader of the House is aware that in the Andhradesa to-day many Collectors, District Superintendents of Police and even Educational Officers do not know the language of the area? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not think there are many Educational Officers who do not know Telugu. It

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may be that some of the I.A.S. people or some district-office-holders who are posted to Telugu districts are not very well conversant with Telugu, but I cannot say they may not know any Telugu at all."

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO :—" Is it not the practice with the Government that only people who have passed the regional language test are posted to those areas? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" That is so."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" The Hon. Minister stated that if the results of the experiment are encouraging, it will be extended. Am I to take it that the results of the experiment are not encouraging, but are discouraging? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The hon. Member is at liberty to take it like that."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" Great difficulty is being experienced by the people who are being administered by others than those who know their language; and the language of the ruled is not known to the rulers; is it not yet another argument, and a more forceful argument for another effort being made by this Government to have the Andhra Province ushered in at the earliest possible opportunity? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It does not arise at all, since that argument will apply equally to Malabar, South Kanara and the Tamil districts. I do not think, Sir, the question of linguistic States is intimately connected with this question."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—" May I know the exact difficulty in extending it to the other districts? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" There are certain administrative difficulties."

Inclusion of Sivaganga and Tiruppattur taluks in Pudukkottai district for registration purposes.

* 68 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether Sivaganga and Tiruppattur taluks in Ramanathapuram district have been included in Pudukkottai district for purposes of registration; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) In addition to the administrative convenience resulting from the inclusion, it was also considered that the inclusion of the two sub-districts of Sivaganga and Tiruppattur of the Ramanathapuram district in the newly constituted district of Pudukkottai would be conducive to the convenience of the registering public, as these sub-districts are nearer to Pudukkottai than to their previous headquarters."

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SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of creating a separate unit within the Ramanathapuram district itself, and calling it the Sivaganga district or Manamadura district or the East Ramanathapuram district? I understand there was a proposal like that? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not think, Sir, there was any proposal to bifurcate the Ramanathapuram district into two for registration purposes, but generally the District Registrar has about 16 or 17 sub-registration districts in his jurisdiction. In the new Pudukkottai district, we have got 19 sub-districts for registration purposes."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" In view of the fact that some difficulty is being created, and documents relating to areas in Ramanathapuram district have now to include a statement that they belong to the Pudukkottai district, and there is confusion created in the minds of the people, and also in view of the fact that people think this has a bearing on a new Pudukkottai district which may be formed with some portions of the Ramanathapuram district added on to the present Pudukkottai area, will the Government be pleased to clearly state that they have no idea of taking away a portion of the present Ramanathapuram district and tacking it on to a new Pudukkottai district which may be formed? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" This question arose from the question as to how to administer the sub-registry offices in the old Pudukkottai State. There were already some ten of them there and we wanted to create a separate registration district by adding on some sub-districts from Tanjore and some from Ramanathapuram. Thus, we created a new Pudukkottai registration district. If we added those sub-registry offices in the Pudukkottai State to Tiruchirappalli, then the latter would become a heavy district; or if we added them to the Ramanathapuram district, that would become heavy. That is why we thought of constituting a separate district called Pudukkottai by adding to the existing sub-registry offices a few from Tanjore and a few from Ramanathapuram districts."

Increment to the teachers of the Panchayat Boards.

* 69 Q.—**SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI** : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the teachers of the Panchayat Boards are given annual increment; if so, from which year; if not, why not; and

(b) whether the Government have recently received any representation from the teachers of Panchayat Board schools about this?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" (a) Yes, from 1st January 1947; and

(b) Sometime ago the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards received a representation from the Panchayat School teachers in the Chittoor district. The Inspector has

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issued a circular to all Panchayats directing them to sanction increments to their teachers as and when they fall due and to strictly avoid delays in this respect."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—" May I know whether the Government will insist on the panchayat boards which are not giving annual increments to their teachers, to do so promptly? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Yes, Sir; in answer to clause (b) of the question, I have said that the Inspector of Municipal Councils has issued orders that increments to their teachers should be paid promptly as and when they fall due."

Visual Education.

* 70 Q.—**SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI** : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have recently received any representation from the Teachers' Guild, Madras, regarding Visual Education and salary of Secondary Grade Teachers, if so, what it is; and

(b) the action taken by the Government in this matter?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" (a) No representation from the Teachers' Guild, Madras, has been received by Government either regarding Audio-Visual Education or regarding the salary of secondary grade teachers.

" (b) Does not arise."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—" May I know what action the Government have taken to separate visual education in this State? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" This relates to some complaint; but I have no objection if the Hon. Minister is willing to reply."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The Government are arranging to see that every secondary school has a projector of its own. The Government have now got a Film Library with about 1,000 films. The programme is that every secondary school must have a projector of its own. Films will be supplied by the Central Films Library in the office of the Director of Public Instruction. Orders have been passed this year for supplying projectors to 200 schools; and it is hoped that in the course of two or three years, all the schools will have projectors of their own."

Free gifts of house-sites by the mirasidars of Tanjore district.

* 71 Q.—**SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI** : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state with reference to answer given to question No. 950 on 19th March 1951—

(a) whether the Government will place on the table of the House a statement showing the name, place and extent of house-sites given by the mirasidars to the Harijans in Tanjore district; and

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(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to encourage such voluntary grant of house-sites by the mirasidars to the Harijans; and if so, what they are?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“(a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

“(b) The District Collector and the Officers of the Harijan Welfare Department in the district have been persuading the mirasidars during their tours to make free gifts of house-sites to the Harijans.”

11-15 a.m. SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government have taken any steps to approach the mirasidars to give free house-sites in the taluks where no free gifts have been made at all?”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“There is no special agency for it. It is for hon. Members, like Mr. Vedaratnam Pillai, who wield enormous influence over the mirasidars, to persuade them to give free house-sites and for the mirasidars also in their own interests, if not for any other consideration, to try to give free gifts of land.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—“May I know how many mansikats have been given with these 36.41 acres and how many people were able to get housing accommodation?”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“On the whole 838 families have been able to get house-sites.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is aware that there is a rule that 5 cents of land should be given for each family and whether this rule was observed in granting these house-sites for Harijans and if so, out of this 36.41 acres, how many families have settled there and how many still remain to be settled in this area?”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“As I said, about 838 families were settled.”

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—“May I know, Sir, what happened to the offer made by Mr. Desigar, M.L.C., who promised to give house-sites and also construct houses for Harijans provided the Government also came forward with their own contribution?”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“The Government are concentrating their attention at present on giving them house-sites and they do not propose to take up the other question; Mr. Desigar's proposal is being examined by the Government.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“May I ask, Sir, what is the policy of the Government involved in this, namely, whether they will take up the question of giving house-sites themselves, or only ask private philanthropists to give house-sites?”

Printed as Appendix I on page 642 infra.

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“Wherever it is possible for the Government to persuade mirasidars to give free house-sites they have been doing so; and in certain cases where there is congestion, they acquire house-sites and give them to these people. So far as Tanjore is concerned, about 16,000 house-sites were required and out of that, within a period of one year, not less than 7,000 house-sites were given.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister, may I know if the rule of 5 cents per family, was observed and whether 36.41 acres were sufficient, and if not, I want to know whether the Government have supplemented this from their own resources to house the other families who have gone without houses?”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“In Tanjore, as a special case, we have been giving only 3 cents for a family.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“Sir, is there a rule of the Government still in force that house-sites that the Government give, should be given free?”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“If it is Government land, it is given free and even if we acquire house-sites, we do not take any money from the Harijans.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to tell me, whether in addition to the promise of house-sites, there is any promise of land also, as is done in Hyderabad for Harijans?”

MR. SPEAKER :—“This question relates to the Tanjore district. If necessary, the hon. Member may put a separate question.”

JANAB N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR :—“Sir, is it the policy of the Government to allot houses and house-sites for the houseless, or for Harijans?”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“The question relates to Harijans.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“Sir, the Hon. Minister said that in this district particularly, they have made the grant of only 3 cents per family. May I know the reason why they have reduced the area from 5 cents to 3 cents in this district particularly?”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“Tanjore is a peculiar district, where land is not available in plenty. Therefore, we have to limit the area to 3 cents per family, and the Harijans also are satisfied that they are given 3 cents. When we are thinking of providing houses for such a large number, we have first to satisfy ourselves that all Harijan families are provided with house-sites.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“Sir, the Hon. Minister said that Tanjore is a peculiar district. Is it peculiar only in respect of reducing the grant of land from 5 cents to 3 cents to Harijans?”

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ I have explained the matter quite clearly and I do not propose to say anything further.”

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

II.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS FOREST (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ Sir, I move—
That the Hon. Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja be added to the Select Committee appointed to consider the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1951 (L.A. Bill No. 27 of 1951).”

“ Sir, I am sorry, I did not bring to your notice earlier, that, under the rules, it is imperative that the Minister in charge of the subject should be a member of the Select Committee. I now want to correct the mistake.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ The motion before the House is—

That the Hon. Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja be added to the Select Committee appointed to consider the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1951 (L.A. Bill No. 27 of 1951).”

The motion was carried.

III.—GOVERNMENT MOTION re FOOD SITUATION IN THE STATE.

* THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—“ Sir, I beg to move—

“ That the food situation in the State be taken into consideration.”

“ Sir, in this connexion, I beg to point out that since the last occasion when we discussed about food in this House, two important things have happened. When we met last time, we were still asking for more supplies to be made to this State. The Government of India, at that time, had only raised the total quantity of foodgrains to the State from 4 to 5 lakhs, but our request to the Government of India, was for 10 lakhs of tons and our requirements, according to our original proposal were 10 lakhs of tons. Subsequently, as a result of our continued agitation and also on account of the general request made by the hon. Members of this House and the people in general, the Government of India have allotted to this State 10 lakhs of tons of foodgrains; but, in raising that quota they have not raised the rice portion proportionately and left it at 2 lakhs of tons, and the result is, our present difficulties with regard to rice. Then, the supplies promised from outside have also to arrive here as quickly as possible to meet the situation and when they are received, I am sure the position will improve.

“ Sir, another important matter which I wish to point out to hon. Members is that we are in the most difficult period, not only we are in a difficult period this year, but we have been so for the last

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so many years. The period we are now passing through, namely, July, August and September, have been always difficult months for us with regard to food in our State, because our procured quantity is not sufficient to meet our own requirements and we have to depend more and more on help from outside.

“ Then, Sir, with regard to other matters, as it has been pointed out in the statement* which has been placed on the table, other kinds of help are also forthcoming besides the usual foodgrain supply which also help to get over some of the difficult conditions prevailing in the State, namely, the food ships coming from outside countries like America and also our own people coming forward to help our less fortunate brethren with regard to food, for instance, the starting of ‘ kanji thotti ’ and ‘ gruel ’ centres in different places. People have come forward generously to contribute and the Government also have contributed their share in seeing that the conditions are improved in the districts. The statement* that has been placed on the table gives the information which is now available with the Government and during the course of the debate, I shall be able to deal with the subject as it comes up. With these remarks, I move that the food situation be taken into consideration.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Motion moved—

“ That the food situation in the State be taken into consideration.”

“ At the outset, I wish to say that, in view of the fact that the Hon. Leader of the House wants that the food debate should be concluded to-day itself, I fix a time-limit of 15 minutes for leaders of parties and 10 minutes for other members; otherwise it will not be finished to-day.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know whether I am supposed to move my amendment formally now and then speak on it later on?”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Yes; all the amendments may be moved and then the Members may speak on the amendments as well as on the main motion.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—“ Sir, I beg to move the amendment that stands in my name, namely—

“ Add at the end the following :—

“ and on such consideration it resolves that paddy and rice, whole or broken or flour, be derationed and decontrolled in this State and only the import of the said commodities be rationed among the people of this State.” ”

SRI K. LINGA RAJU :—“ I second it, Sir.”

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SRI P. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—“Sir, I move the amendment that stands in my name, namely:—”

“Add at the end the following:—”

“and on such consideration it feels that the Grow More Food Campaign will and can never be successful if we continue this policy of importing acceptedly poor quality of rice at such exorbitant rates, while the producer of our State is starved and given a very low price, which is quite inconsistent with the prices of the other auxiliary food commodities.”

SRI M. D. THYAGARAJA PILLAI:—“I second it, Sir.”

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—“On a point of information, Sir, I want to know whether

MR. SPEAKER:—“Let the hon. Member put that in writing and send it on to me. Amendments have been moved and now Members may speak both on the amendments and on the main motion.”

* SRI P. NATESAN:—“கனம் அக்கிராசனாதிபதி அவர்களே, நான் இன்றையதினம் தமிழில் பேசலாமென்று இருக்கிறேன். என்னென்றால், ஏழை மக்களுக்கு நாம் எப்படி அரிசி கொடுக்கப் போகின்றோம் என்ற விஷயத்தைப் பற்றி இப்பொழுது இந்த சட்டசபை ஆலோசித்துக் கொண்டு இருக்கிறது. இதைப்பற்றி வருஷக்கணக்காக ஆலோசித்துக் கொண்டு வருகிறது. இந்த காங்கிரஸ் சட்டசபை அங்கத்தினர்களெல்லாம் amendment வேறு இதற்குக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள்.

“இவர்கள் ஏன் இந்த சட்டசபையில் வந்து amendment கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்று தான் கேட்கிறேன்.”

SRI B. S. MURTHY rose—

SRI P. NATESAN:—“I do not yield, Sir.”

11-30 SRI B. S. MURTHY:—“On a point of order, Sir. If I understand the hon. Member aright, he is questioning the right of a Congress Member of the Legislative Assembly to move an amendment. Is it in order, Sir?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“He does not question it.”

* SRI P. NATESAN:—“That is why, Sir, I did not want to yield; I knew that such things would be raised in the shape of points of order.

“அவர்கள் உரிமையைப்பற்றி நான் ஒன்றும் கேட்கவில்லை. இந்த சட்டசபை காங்கிரஸ் அங்கத்தினர்கள் ஏன் இவ்விதம் amendment கொடுக்கிறார்கள் என்றுதான் கேட்கிறேன். இராஜ்யம் அவர்களுடைய கையில் இருக்கிறது. அவர்களுடைய அரசாங்கம் நடக்கிறது. அவர்களுடைய கட்சிக் கூட்டத்தில் இந்த விஷயங்களை எல்லாம் ஏன் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கக்கூடாது? மந்திரிகள் இவர்களுடைய மந்திரிகள் தானே! இந்த விஷயங்களை அவர்களுடன் கலந்துபேசித் தெரிந்துகொண்டிருக்கலாமே. அவர்கள் என்னப்போல் எதிர் seat-ல் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கவில்லையே. என்னப்போல் எதிர் seat-ல் உட்கார்ந்திருப்பவர்களுக்குத்தான் அந்த opportunity இல்லை. (சூ குரல் எல்லாவற்றையும் தமிழிலேயே பேசுங்கள்.)

[1st September 1951] [Sri P. Natesan]

“இது வெள்ளைக்கார இராஜாங்கம் இல்லை. அடிக்கடி ஆங்கிலத்திலேயே பேசிப் பேசி தமிழில் பேச முடியவில்லை. ஆனால், தமிழில் பேச வேண்டுமென்பதுதான் என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். அதுதான் என்னுடைய ஆவல். ஆகையினால், நான் தமிழில் பேசும்போது, அதைப் பற்றி அங்கத்தினர்கள் சிரிப்பதில் பிரயோஜனமில்லை.

“என்னுடைய ஆட்சேபணை என்னவென்றால், இந்த amendment-ஐ இந்த சபையில் இவர்கள் கொண்டு வருவதில் நியாயம் இல்லை. ஏனென்றால், இந்த amendment-களைக் கொண்டு வந்தவர்கள் காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரிகளே, இந்த amendment-ஐ செய்க்கூடாது! இவ்வாறு நீங்கள் களைப்பாற்றி, ‘ஏன் இப்படிச் செய்யக்கூடாது? இவ்வாறு நீங்கள் செய்யலாமே’ என்று தனியாகவோ கட்சிக் கூட்டத்திலோ கேட்டிருக்கலாம். அவ்விதம் செய்யாமல், இவர்கள் இந்தச் சட்டசபையில் இவ்வாறு திருத்தங்கள் கொண்டு வருவதாயிருந்தால் அதற்குக் காரணம் இருக்கிறது. அங்கத்தினர்கள் சட்டசபையில் உணவைப்பற்றி பேசினார்கள் என்று பத்திரிகைகளில் வரும் என்ற நோக்கமேயொழிய வேறு ஒன்றும் இல்லை. என் மனதிற்குத் தோன்றுவது என்னவென்றால் இந்த உணவு விஷயமாக எவ்வளவுதான் இந்தச் சபையில் பேசினபோதிலும் அதனால் ஒருவிதமான லாபமும் ஏற்படப்போவதில்லை என்பதுதான்.

“இப்பொழுது உணவு மந்திரி அவர்கள் இந்தச் சபையில் ஒரு statement-ஐ சமர்ப்பித்திருக்கிறார். கிராமபோன் ரிகார்டைப்போல் சொன்னதையே சொல்லிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இம்மாதிரி statement எதற்காக அவ்வப்போது இந்த மந்திரிகள் போட்டுக் கொடுக்கிறார்கள் என்பது எனக்கு விளங்கவில்லை. எவ்வளவு வரவழைக்கப்பட்டது, டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் எவ்வளவு stock இருந்தது, எவ்வளவு செலவழிந்தது, எவ்வளவு மிச்சம் இருக்கிறது என்று சொல்லுவதில் என்ன பிரயோஜனம்? Fair price shops எத்தனை இருக்கிறது என்று யாருக்கு வேண்டும்? 30 இருந்தால் என்ன? 300 இருந்தால் என்ன? அதனால் நமக்கு என்ன லாபம்? மொத்தத்தில் ஜனங்களுக்கு இன்றைக்கு அரிசி கொடுக்கிறார்களா இல்லையா என்பது தான் பிரச்சனை. அதைத்தான் ஜனங்கள் கேட்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு சாப்பிட என்ன ஏற்பாடு அரசாங்கம் செய்திருக்கிறது என்றுதான் கேட்கிறார்கள். அதை விட்டுவிட்டு கதை யெல்லாம் சொன்னால் ஏழை மக்கள் கேட்கப் போகிறார்களா? இல்லவே இல்லை. ‘Government of India’ என்று ஒன்று இருக்கிறது. ‘Central Pool’ என்று ஒன்று இருக்கிறது, என்றெல்லாம் ஒன்றும் அறியாத ஏழை ஜனங்களுக்குச் சொல்லி என்ன பிரயோஜனம்? 4 அவுன்ஸ், 2 அவுன்ஸ் அரிசியை அவர்கள் சாப்பிட்டுக்கொண்டு சிதக்கிறார்கள். அது போதாமல் மக்கள் சாகிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு கதி மோகஷமும் இல்லை. கஞ்சித் தொட்டிகள் ஆரம்பித்து அவர்களுக்கு கஞ்சி ஊற்றுகிறார்களாம்! கஞ்சி ஊற்றுவதற்காகவா இந்த அரசாங்கம் இருக்கிறது? கஞ்சித் தொட்டியில் யார் போய் வாங்குகிறார்கள்? பரம ஏழை தான் போகிறான். சட்டசபை அங்கத்தினர்களுக்கு இந்த விஷயம் தெரியாதா! அரசாங்கம் பெருமையாக ‘நாங்கள் கஞ்சித் தொட்டிகள் ஆரம்பித்து இருக்கிறோம்’ என்று பெருமை கொண்டாடிக் கொண்டிருந்தால் அதில் என்ன லாபம் இருக்கிறது என்றுதான் நான் கேட்கின்றேன்.

“நடுத்தரமான ஜனங்கள் (middle-class people) இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு ஏறக்குறைய அரை டஜன் குழந்தைகளுக்கு மேல் இருக்கிறது. சம்பளம் ரூ. 30, ரூ. 40 என்று கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. சம்பளம் போதாமல் அவர்கள் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இவ்விதம் இருக்கும்போது சபையில் உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டு இவர்கள் இப்படி lecture பண்ணுகிறார்கள். அதனால் ஜனங்களுக்கு ஒரு வித லாபமும் இல்லை. உணவு இல்லாத ஜனங்களுக்கு இவர்கள் சாப்பாடு போடப் போகிறார்களா இல்லையா என்று நாள் கேட்கின்றேன். இந்த statement-ல் ஒரு விஷயமும் இல்லை. ஆபிரிசில் கணக்கெடுத்து இந்தத் தேதியில் அரிசி விஷயம் எப்படி இருக்கிறது என்று சொல்லுகிறதேயொழிய வேறு ஒன்றும் சொல்லவில்லை. மத்திய அரசாங்கத்தினியிருந்து கேட்ட அரிசி சிடைக்க என்ன ஏற்பாடு பண்ணியிருக்கிறார்கள்? ஒன்றும் இல்லையே. அரிசி கேட்டால் கோதுமை

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up. Does he not realize that food is the most essential requirement in life for every individual including himself? That Hon. Minister also stated that he was a happy man and as such he saw around him nothing but joy and happiness wherever he went. The difficulty of the matter is that he is not only a happy man but being in that fortunate position, he finds himself unable to visualise the plight of the unfortunate inhabitants of this State many of whom are starving for want of food.

"Those who get their food and other comforts of life without difficulty are often unable to imagine the sufferings of others in respect of such matters. That is why, Islam has enjoined a fast for thirty days in a year for every Muslim, the rigours of this fast being so extreme that one has to forego not only food but also water from sun-rise to sun-set. The idea underlying the Islamic fast is to make the rich realise the pangs."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :— "On a point of order, Madam. Is it within the purview of a Member to attribute motives to a Minister and say that because he is wallowing in wealth and comforts and happiness, he is unable to understand the sufferings of the people? I believe, Madam, it is not quite in order and I wish you would give a ruling."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :— "I have not followed her, but from what the hon. Member says, she seems to have said that because he is rich, he may not be able to understand the difficulties of the people for their food. She merely expressed what she felt and there is no motive attributed to the Hon. Minister."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :— "The motive, Madam, is not the only point. My point is also whether it is open for her to say that the Hon. Minister is not able to understand the suffering of the people because of this handicap? Is it proper to say so, Madam?"

DEPUTY SPEAKER :— "There is nothing improper in it."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :— "Madam, Deputy Speaker, I was merely commenting on the speech of the Hon. the Finance Minister and quoting his very words as regards his being a happy man. If Mr. Raghavayya will read through this speech, which was made in reply to the discussion on His Excellency the Governor's Address, he will find that the Hon. Minister gloated over the fact that he was a happy man and said that he saw only happiness and joy around him wherever he went. This remark of his naturally gives one an impression that he does not realise the difficulties of the poor. As I stated the principle underlying the rigours of the Islamic fast is that the rich may have an idea of what the pangs of hunger mean to the poor. I am not attributing any motive to him. I am only commenting on the speech made in this House by the Hon. Minister."

"I am afraid the Government have not been really keen on improving the food position in this State. The deficit in this State is over 200 lakhs of tons as revealed in the report of the Economic Advisor. In order to bridge this small gap, the Government have

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pent vast sums of the tax-payers' money on the Grow More Food campaign, but the result has been negligible. It is indeed astounding that instead of the acreage under paddy increasing, it has decreased. I am in entire agreement with the amendment moved by the hon. Member Sri Venkatarama Ayyar that the Government have been most apathetic with reference to the demands of the producers. Instead of giving them encouragement and offering them incentives of increasing food production, the Government have been bringing forward all sorts of legislation which would deter the producers from enlarging their undertakings. So far as sugarcane is concerned, I understand that its price has been increased. I ask, why has not a similar increase been made with reference to the price of paddy. Because of lack of encouragement, paddy lands have been diverted to the growth of commercial crops, with the result that the production of food has gone down in this State. If the Government had been solicitous about increasing food production, they would have taken steps to check such conversion of paddy lands.

"This Government merely relies on the Central Government to come to its aid but the Central Government are indifferent to the requirements of this State, one of the reasons being that they feel that this State has not been handling the food situation in a proper manner. We suggest to the Hon. the Food Minister and the Chief Minister to go and make personal representations to the Central Government and inform them that what this State requires is rice and not wheat. The Central Government are now getting two millions of tons of wheat from America. This may be utilized by the wheat-eating provinces of India and more quantities of rice can be made available to this State so as to enable the restoration of the 12 oz. rice ration. This Government should request the Central Government to allot more wheat to the other States where people are accustomed to a wheat diet, so that the people of Madras who do not relish wheat may get more rice. The people of the North can well make a little sacrifice by taking more wheat and less rice so as to help the poor people of the South."

"Another point that I wish to mention is that it is unfair that the consumers should be mulcted of the increase in price that the Government have to pay in regard to the rice that they import. The consumers here had to pay one crore and eight lakhs of rupees in account of high price paid by this State for the rice obtained from Uttar Pradesh. They are again made to bear the burden of the high cost of rice imported from Siam. I feel that it is the State that must meet this increased cost and not the consumers."

"In order to give a larger quantity of rice to the poor, I should like the Government to examine if they cannot reduce the rice portion of the ration of the higher income groups. The rich can well afford to supplement their diet by other food and can get on with less rice. The quantity thus saved could be distributed among the lower-income groups. I myself have not been drawing my rice ration for some weeks in a month because I take not only rice but other kinds of food as well. I should also like the Government to

[Sri M. G. Natesa Chettiyar] [1st September 1951]

என்ற விஷயத்தில் நாம் பலமுறையும் விவாதித்திருக்கிறோம். ஆனால் அவைகள் எல்லாம் விளைகவேதான் ஆகியிருக்கின்றன. நம்முடைய மாகாணத்தில் அனேக காலமாகவே நம் தேவைக்கு நூற்றுக்கு 35 வீதம் அரிசி குறைவாகவே இருந்து வந்திருக்கிறது. ஆனால் அதை அப்போது நாம் வெளிநாடுகளிலிருந்து இறக்குமதி செய்து சரிக்கட்டிக் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறோம். அதற்கு பின்னால் ஏற்பட்ட யுத்தம் போன்ற விபரீத சம்பவங்களினால் தான், ஏற்கெனவே இறக்குமதி செய்து வந்த அரிசி நம் நாட்டுக்கு வர முடியாமல் போய்விட்டது. அதன் காரணமாகத் தான் நம் நாட்டில் உணவு தட்டு ஏற்பட்டு அதனால் பல விபரீதமான சம்பவங்களும் நடக்க ஆரம்பித்தன. அப்படி இருக்கும் காலத்தில் கூட நாம் சென்ற பல வருஷங்களாகவே இந்த அரிசி தட்டுமுட்டு விஷயத்தை கவனித்து சமாளிப்பதற்காக பல காரியங்களை மேற்கொண்டு வந்தும் கூட அவைகளால் நமக்கு தக்க பலன் ஏற்படாது போய் விட்டது. ஆனால் அனுபவ ரீதியில் விவசாயிகளும், சர்க்காரும் அதிக உற்பத்திக்கு வேண்டிய எல்லா ஏற்பாடுகளைச் செய்தும் கூட நமக்கு இயற்கையினால் தான் அதிகமான ஏமாற்றம் வந்தது! அதனால் தான் நாம் எதிர்பார்த்த அளவு உணவும் அதிக உற்பத்தியும் கிடைக்காமற் போய்விட்டது என்று நான் அபிப்பிராயப்படுகிறேன். மேலும் எந்தந்த விதமாகவெல்லாம் விவசாயம் செய்தால் அதிகமான உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்கலாமென்று சர்க்கார் பல விதமான யோசனைகளைச் சொல்லியபோதிலும் நம் நாட்டு விவசாயிகள் நம்மை நம்பாமல், நம் வார்த்தைகளில் நம்பிக்கை வைக்காமல் பழைய காலத்தைப் போலவே விவசாயத்தை தங்கள் இஷ்டம்போல் செய்து வந்ததும், நாம் எதிர்பார்த்ததைப் போல உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்ய முடியாததற்கும் ஒரு காரணமாகச் சொல்லலாம். அதோடு கொள்முதலும் சர்க்கார் சிப்பந்திகளால் அதிகமாகச் செய்யமுடியவில்லை. ஆகையால்தான் இப்போது இந்த உணவு நெருக்கடி ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த நெருக்கடியைச் சமாளிப்பதற்காக நாம் கிராமாந்திர ரேஷன் திட்டத்தை எடுத்து விட்டோம். அங்கங்கே சில நிவாரணக் கடைகளை ஏற்படுத்திக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறோம். அதன் மூலமாக ஜனங்கள் தங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய தானியங்களை வாங்கிக் கொள்ளலாம். நாம் முன்பு கிராமாந்திரங்களில் ரேஷனை எடுத்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று யோசனை செய்தபோது பலர் எதோ பலவிதமான பெரிய ஆபத்துகள் ஏற்படுமென்பதாகவெல்லாம் சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் அந்த யோசனைப்படி எந்தவிதமான பயங்கர சம்பவங்களும் இன்றுவரை நடைபெறவில்லை. கிராமாந்திரங்களில் இன்று வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் பஞ்சநிவாரணக் கடைகளினால் அவர்கள் உண்மையாக லாபம் அடையாவிட்டாலும் கிராமாந்திர மக்கள் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் விளைவை நிறைக்கொண்டுதான் வருகிறார்கள். மேலும் கிராமங்களில் உள்ள நிவாரணக் கடைகளை சர்க்கார் எடுத்துவிட்டாலும் கூட அதற்காக கிராமங்களிலுள்ள மக்கள் இறந்து விடப் போவதில்லை. தங்கள் தேவைகளை தாங்களே பூர்த்தி செய்யக்கூடிய வகையில் அவர்கள் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் உதவிக்கொண்டுதான் வருகிறார்கள் என்பதை நான் சொல்ல விரும்புகின்றேன். அதனால் நான் என்ன சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன் என்றால் நிவாரணக் கடைகள் மூலம் அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய அரிசியைக் கொடுக்காவிட்டாலும் ரேஷன் எடுபட்ட பிரதேசங்களில் அரிசியைச் சேர்ந்த மாவு, நொய் போன்றவைகளுக்கு உடனே ரேஷனை எடுத்து விட்டால் அநேகமாக நம் பற்றாக்குறையை ஒருவருக்கொருவரே நிறைக்கொள்ள வழியேற்படுமென்று நான் குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். மற்ற விடங்களிலும் ரேஷன் திட்டத்தை சரியாக நடத்த முடியுமென்று நான் அபிப்பிராயப்படுகிறேன். இது என்னுடைய சொந்த அபிப்பிராயம். தங்களுடைய சுய தேவைகளைப் பூர்த்தி செய்து கொள்ள அந்தந்தப் பிரதேசங்களிலுள்ள ஜனங்களுக்கு ஒரு நல்ல சந்தர்ப்பத்தை கொடுத்ததாக ஆகும் என்று நான் அபிப்பிராயப்படுகிறேன். மாகாண காந்தி அவர்கள் ரேஷனை எடுத்து விடவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னபோதும் கூட அவர்கள் அதற்குக் காரணம் சொல்லும்போது தங்கள் தங்கள் சுயதேவைகளைப் பூர்த்தி செய்து கொள்ளும் சக்தியை மக்களிடமே விட்டுவிடவேண்டுமென்று தான் அவர் வற்புறுத்தினார். ஆகையால் இப்படிப்பட்ட சுயதேவை பூர்த்தி செய்து கொள்ளும் வகையில் மக்களுக்கு உதவ வேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் யோசனை சொல்லுகிறேன். அதேமாதிரியாக நாம் ரேஷனை எடுத்தபோது

[1st September 1951] [Sri M. G. Natesa Chettiyar]

மக்கு யாதொரு கஷ்டமும் ஏற்படவில்லை. நன்னுடைய பிரதேசத்தில் ரேஷன் எடுத்து விட்டபின்னர் அதிகமான அரிசி தாராளமாக மார்க்கெட்டுக்கு வந்துகொண்டுதான் இருக்கிறது. ரேஷன் எடுத்து ஒன்றிரண்டு வாரங்கள் மட்டும் எதோ அரிசியின் விலை ஏறுவதைப் போல காணப்பட்டதே தவிர பிரதி தினமும் முந்திய நாளைவிட ஒரு அணு விலை குறைந்து கொண்டேதான் வந்தது. கடைசியாக ஒரு படி அரிசி 14 அணு வாக்க கூட விற்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. கள்ள மார்க்கெட்டு இன்று செழித்திருக்கிறதென்றால் அதற்குக் காரணம் ரேஷன் முறை அமுலில் வைத்துக்கொண்டு மக்களுக்கும் சரியானபடி உணவு கொடுக்காததால் தான், என்று நான் சொல்லுவேன். வியாபாரிகளில் சிலரும் கிடைக்கும் கொஞ்ச தானியங்களை யும் தாராளமாக விற்க முடியாமல் ஒளித்து, பதுக்கி, அதனால் ஏற்படும் அபாயங்களை தாங்களே ஏற்றுக் கொள்ள வேண்டியிருப்பதால் அதற்காகவும் விலையில் கொஞ்சம் உயர்த்தி அதிகமான விலைக்கு விற்கிறார்கள். இந்த முறை இருப்பதின் காரணமாக நல்ல குணமுடைய ஜனங்களின் மனம் கூட மாறிக்கொண்டு வருகிறது. விவசாய அபிவிருத்தி விஷயத்திலும் சரி நமது விவசாய இலாகா டைரக்டர்கள், ஆபீசர்கள் விவசாயிகளிடம் போய் என்னென்ன சொல்லுகிறார்களோ அவைகளையெல்லாம் அந்த விவசாயிகளும் நம்பாமல் தங்கள் இஷ்டம்போலவே தான் விவசாயம் செய்து கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். அந்தமாதிரியான ஜனங்களுடைய மனதை மாற்றி அவர்களுக்கு அதிக உற்பத்தியில் ஊக்கம் உண்டாகும் வகையில் பல முக்கியமான காரியங்களையெல்லாம் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இன்னும் விவசாய இலாகா அதிகாரிகள் நவ்ன விவசாய முறை களைப் பரப்ப பாடுபடுவோம். நம்முடைய நாட்டில் நாம் அதிக உணவு உற்பத்திக்கு இன்னும் அதிகமான ஊக்கம் எடுத்துக் கொள்வதோடு மத்திய சர்க்காரிடம் நாம் அதிகமாக வற்புறுத்த வேண்டிய விஷயம் ஒன்று உண்டு. அதாவது அவர்கள் நமக்கு கொடுத்த வாக்குறுதி படியே அரிசியையோ, மற்ற தானியங்களையோ சொன்ன வார்த்தைகளை மறுக்காமல் கொடுத்து விட்டும். அதை அவர்கள் எந்தக் காரணத்தைக் கொண்டும் குறைக்காமல் அவர்கள் எவ்வளவு தானியம் கொடுப்பதாக வாக்குறுதி அளித்திருக்கிறார்களோ அந்த தானிய அளவை கட்டரயமாக அவர்களிடமிருந்து நம் மாகாணம் பெற்றுக்கொள்ள என்னென்ன ஏற்பாடுகள் செய்யவேண்டுமோ அதைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். இப்படி வரும்படியான தானியத்தை மாத்திரம் நாம் ரேஷன் அமுலில் உள்ள பிரதேசங்களுக்கு கொடுத்துவிட்டு மற்ற இடங்களில் ரேஷன் முறைகளை எடுத்துவிட்டால் போதுமானது. அதோடு ரேஷன் எடுபட்ட இடங்களில் உணவு தானியங்கள் ஒரு தாலுக்காவிலிருந்து மற்றொரு தாலுக்காவிற்கும், ஒரு ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து மற்றொரு ஜில்லாவிற்கும் தாராளமாகப் போய்வர எல்லா வசதிகளும் செய்யவேண்டும்; அதற்கு, ஏதும் control செய்யாமல் தானியங்கள் அவ்வாறு ஜில்லாவிற்கு ஜில்லா போய்வர ஏற்பாடு செய்தால் போதுமானது. ரேஷனை எடுத்து விடலாம், நிவாரணக் கடைகளையும் எடுத்து விடலாம், ஏற்கெனவே வியாபார முறையிலும் விநியோகம் செய்யலாம். இப்படியெல்லாம் செய்தால் நம் நாட்டின் உணவு நெருக்கடி நிலைமையைப் போக்கி பஞ்சத்தையும் நீக்கி நமது பற்றாக்குறையை நாமே பூர்த்தி செய்துகொள்ள வழி ஏற்படுமென்பதாக நான் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். மேலும் தங்கள் சுயதேவைகளைப் பூர்த்தி செய்துகொள்ள ஜனங்களுக்கு ஒரு அரிய சந்தர்ப்பம் கொடுத்ததாகவும் ஆகுமென்பதாகச் சொல்லிக்கொண்டு என் பேச்சை இத்துடன் முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—“Madam, Deputy Speaker, it is indeed a sad commentary on the achievements of this Government that during the four years of their regime, the people of this State have been leading a precarious existence with regard to food, the most essential article in life. The Hon. the Minister for Finance remarked the other day that he could not understand why on each and every occasion the question of food should crop

[Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin] [1st September 1951]

take steps to see that no rice is served at subscription dinners, luncheons, etc., that are arranged in clubs, hotels and restaurants. The use of rice on such occasions ought to be prohibited. I feel that if the Government properly husbanded their resources and had recourse to proper distribution, the situation would not have been so bad as it is to-day."

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noon.

SRI V. JAGGARAJU:—“ఉచితవ్యయములను అమ్మ, అహార విషయము గురించి కాలానుంది పెద్దలు కాసన సభలలోను, ఇతరచోట్లా కూడా, తమ తమ అధిపతయములను తెలియజేస్తారు. నేను ఈ కాసన సభకు వచ్చిన తరువాత అహార కొరత, శరీర విషయముల గురించి ఇచ్చట అనేక పర్యాయములు చర్చలు జరిగినప్పటికి కూడ శరీరములలో ఎట్టి మార్పు కనపడుచులేదు. అహార విషయంలో ప్రయోజనకరమును improvement ఉన్నట్లు విని లోచనము. అనేకమంది గౌరవ సభ్యులు అధికాహారోత్పత్తికి పనికివచ్చు సలహాలను ఇచ్చినారు. అనేక స్త్రీములను ప్రతిపాదించినారు. ఈ స్త్రీములు అన్ని అమలుపరచినట్లయితే, అహార కొరత తీరదు. ముఖ్యముగా, రామపాప నాగర ప్రాజెక్టు మొదలైనవాటిని నిర్మించుట వలన ఎంతో ఉపకారము జరుగగలదు. కాని ఈ ప్రాజెక్టులను పూర్తిచేయుటకు 10, 15 సంవత్సరములకాలము వట్టును. ఈలోపుగా కొద్దిపాటి వ్యయముతో తక్షణ ప్రయోజనకరములగు చిక్కచిన్న కనుగులు చేయవలసివచ్చని ప్రభుత్వముకానిది కోరుచున్నాను.

“దెబ్బ ప్రాంతాలలో, మురుగునీరు పోవుచు సాకర్వములు సరిగా లేనందున, ప్రతి సంవత్సరము వంటలు పాపుతున్నాయి. ఈ మధ్యన వచ్చిన వరదలవల్ల మా కోసనీమలం అమలాపురం తాలూకాలో 20 వేల ఎకరాలు, రాజోలు తాలూకాలో 20 వేల ఎకరాలు ముడిపోయినవి. ఇంత విపరీతమైన నష్టాలు కలగటానికి కారణము ఈ ప్రాంతాలలో drainage కాలువలను వాగుచేయుక పోవడమేనని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. ఈ మధ్యన వచ్చిన వరదలవల్ల ఉభయ గోదావరి జిల్లాలోను లక్షలాది ఎకరాల భూములలోని వరితెరు దెబ్బతింది. నాటిన మొక్కలు కుట్టిపోయినవి. ఈ విషయంలో, West Godavari జిల్లాలోనివారు చాలా గట్టిగా గోడవచేరారు. అందుకై రివిన్యూ అధికారులు, బోర్డుమంబర్లు ఆ ప్రాంతంలో పర్యటన చేసి జరిగిన నష్టాన్ని అంచనా వేసి ప్రభుత్వానికి తెలియజేశారు. తూర్పు గోదావరిలో కూడ వరదలవల్ల నష్టము సంభవించినప్పటికీ, మేము ప్రభుత్వమువారికి తెలియపరచినప్పటికీ కూడ మా తోర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లాలో ఎవరు హమ్మి క్రెడ్ల లీసు కొనలేదు. అమలాపురం తాలూకాలో ఉన్నటువంటి కుంపనపల్లి tunnel డెమోక్రేటువులు ఈ మధ్యన సంభవించిన వరదలవల్ల విగిపోయినవి. అందువలన గోదావరి లోని నీరు ఉప్పుకాలువలు గుండా ప్రవహించి వేలాది ఎకరముల భూమిని ముంచివేసినది. ఈ భూములలోని వైరు పాడైపోయింది, కృతేనుకొన, ఉప్పడి, గాడపల్లి, మునిపల్లి, ఉప్పలగూడ్రం, సన్నపల్లి, లక్ష్మీవాడ, XCC:రం, బంటుమిల్లి, అయినాపురం, కోనవరం, సూరయనామ, ఎ. కొత్తపల్లి మొదలైన గ్రామాలకు చెందిన భూమి 28 వేల ఎకరాల నేలలోని వంటు దెబ్బపోయింది. దీనికంతకు కారణము P.W.D. అధికారులు అక్రద్ధమైన మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. విగిపోయిన tunnel కలుపులను వాగుచేయించి యన్నట్లుంటే ఇన్నివేల ఎకరాల భూమిలోని వంటు కాపాడబడియుండేది. ఇటువంటి చిన్న చిన్న కనులు అక్రద్ధచేస్తూ, అధిక అవకాశము ఉత్పత్తిచేయడానికి అని అనడంవలన ప్రయోజనము ఎంతమాత్రములేదు. దెబ్బ ప్రాంతాలలో మురుగునీరు పోవుచు drainage ను వెంటనే వాగుచేయించాలి. తేకపోయి

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నట్లయితే, కంటే కంటే కూడా చేతులకు రాదు. అధికాహారోత్పత్తి చేయడం ద్వారా ప్రభుత్వమువారు నిజంగా శ్రద్ధ దూషదలచినట్లయితే ద్వైత ప్రాంతాలలోని మురుగు కాల్వలు బాగుచేయించాలి. స్వల్ప వ్యయంతో విశేషమైన లాభాన్ని ఇవ్వగలిగినట్లుంటే ఈ చిన్న చిన్న మరమ్మతులను అశ్రద్ధ చేయడంవల్ల ఎంతమాత్రం ప్రయోజనంలేదు. ఈ ముంపువల్ల ఎంతెంత నష్టము ప్రతి సంవత్సరము జరుగుతూ ఉండో అధికాహారోత్పత్తి ఏ విధంగా దెబ్బ తింటుందో రైతులకు ఎంతటి నష్టము సంభవిస్తోందో తెలియజేసే నిమిత్తం ఉదాహరణంగా ఒక విషయం చూపి చేస్తాను. మా ప్రాంతంలో చల్లపల్లి ఆనే ఒక ఊరు ఉంది. ఈ గ్రామంలో 28 వందల ఎకరాల భూమి సాగుబడిలో ఉంది. 1945 వ సంవత్సరంలో ఈ ఊరినుంచి 40 వేల బస్తాల ధాన్యము రెండవ కంటిలో గార్లు పెంబు procure చేయగలిగింది. రైతులకు 70 వేల రూపాయలు ఆదాయము వచ్చింది. ఇటువంటి గ్రామం ఈ నాడు ముంపువల్ల దెబ్బతింది. ఈ నష్టానికి కారణము మురుగు కాలువలు సరిగా లేకపోవడమే. చాలా కొద్దిపాటి ముంపుతో ఈ మురుగు కాలువలను ప్రభుత్వంవారు మరమ్మతు చేసి ఉన్నట్లయితే, వారికి ప్రతి సంవత్సరంకూడ 40, 50 వేల బస్తాల ధాన్యం ఈ ఒక గ్రామం నుంచే వచ్చి ఉండేది. ఇదే విధంగా అనేక గ్రామాలలోని కంటే నాశనమైపోయింది. కాబట్టి మురుగు కాల్వల మరమ్మతు చేయించడం ప్రభుత్వంవారు చాలా కుఖ్యంగా గమనించవలసిందని కోరుతున్నాను.

“అమలాపురం తాలూకాలో Lower Kowsika అనేటటువంటి drain ఒకటి ఉన్నది. దీనిలో నాచు, జమ్మి పెరిగి ఉండడంవల్ల మురుగు నీరు సరిగా పారువలె అగుటలేదు. అందువల్ల ప్రక్కన ఉండేటటువంటి గూడిలింక, గోడి, తూర్పులంక, రిట్టిగడ్డ, అల్లవరం, పిరికట్లపల్లి గ్రామాలలోని 24 వందల ఎకరాల భూమిలోని వంటి ప్రతి సంవత్సరము నష్టపడుతోంది. అనేక వ్యయములు ఈ drainage ని వాగుచేయించవలసిందని ప్రభుత్వ అధికారులకు తెలియజేసుకొన్నా ఫలితము కలుగలేదు. కొద్ది మొత్తము ఖర్చుచేసి ఈ నాచు, జమ్మి లీయించి వేసినట్లయితే ఈ 24 వందల ఎకరముల భూమిలోని వంటి దక్కి ఉండేది. ప్రతి సంవత్సరము అనేక వందల బస్తాల థాన్స్లము ప్రభుత్వమువారికి procure అయి ఉండేది. ఇటువంటి చిన్న విషయాలను కూడ ప్రభుత్వంవారు గమనింపకపోవడం విచారకరం. ఇక ముందైన మురుగు కాల్వలకు మరమ్మతులు చేయించవలసిందని ప్రభుత్వంవారిని కోరుచున్నాను.

“గోపాయిలొకవద్ద ఒక look కట్టించుటకుగాను గత 10 సంవత్సరములుగా ప్రభుత్వ వారిని కోరుతున్నాము. అయినప్పటికీహాడ దీని విషయము ఏమైందో ఇంకరకు తెలియదు. ఈ లొక బాగుచేయించినట్లయితే, ప్రక్కన ఉండేటటువంటి యొక భూములకు నీరు సృష్టి అవుతుంది. అందువల్ల అనేక ఎకరాల భూమిలో అంతర దాస్యాలు పండింపవచ్చు. ఈ విషయమై శ్రద్ధ వహించవలసిందని ప్రభుత్వం వారిని కోరుతున్నాను.

“థాన్స్ సేకరణ, వంశకం విషయం కాదు చాలా శాశ్వతమైనవి.
సక్రమమైన ధరలకు థాన్స్ము కొనుగోలు చేయాలి అంటే Co-operative Societies
ద్వారా ఈ వర్తకాన్ని జరిపించడం అవ్యవసరం. ఇదివరకే, థాన్స్ కొనుగోలు,
వంశకములను నిర్వహించడానికి ప్రకాశం వంశులు గారు ఏదేని గ్రామాలకు కలిపి
ఒక సంఘాన్ని ఏర్పాటు చేశారు. అప్పుడు ఆ గ్రామాలలోని మిగుల థాన్స్యాన్ని
ఆ సంఘం కొని మిల్లు చేసి ప్రభుత్వానికి సమర్పించేస్తున్నామంటేది. దీనివల్ల

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black-market ఎక్కడా ఉండేదాదు. ప్రజలు భాగ్యము లేక ఎన్నడు వాడవడి ఉండలేదు. అనేక ఇతర కారణాల చేత ఆ సమస్యను వారి తరువాత వచ్చిన ప్రభుత్వంవారు రద్దు చేశారు. ఈ సమస్యను రద్దు చేయడంతో, black-marketing వృద్ధి అయిపోయింది. Procurement సరిగా జరగటంలేదు. కాబట్టి ఇకముందైన ఆర్థిక సౌక్యం కలిగినంతవరకు ప్రాప్తీలకు procurement distribution ఇవ్వ వలసిందని ప్రభుత్వంవారిని కోరుతున్నాను.

“అహరభాగ్యాలు విషయంలో black-market కొలకాలి అంటే ప్రభుత్వంవారు ఒక ముఖ్య విషయాన్ని గమనించాలి. కొంగతనము ఎక్కడైనా జరుగుతుంది అంటే అది మిల్లులలోనే జరుగుతుంది. ఈ విషయమే ఒక సూచకం. ప్రభుత్వం వారు దానిని అదుపు చేస్తారో లేదో నాకు తెలియదు. అయినప్పటికీ మనది చేస్తాను. ముట్టుమొదటగా భాగ్య నేరణకు ఈ నాడు మిల్లులకు ఇచ్చిన రైషెన్సు షాంపిల్ చేయాలి. భాగ్య నేరణ ఇకముందు కొలకతల్ని ప్రాప్తీలకు అప్పగించాలి. ఈ ప్రాప్తీలు గ్రామాలలోని రైతులవద్దనుంచి భాగ్యాన్ని procure చేసి, వాన్ని మిల్లు చేయించి ప్రభుత్వమువారికి ఇచ్చేటట్లు ఏర్పాటుచేయాలి. ఇంకొకటే, ఒక చోట నుంచి మరొకచోటికి రవాణా నిశ్చయించాలి. కొన్ని గ్రామాలనుకంటే ఒక సంఘం క్రింది కేంద్ర ఆ గ్రామాలలోని రైతులు తమ మిగులుభాగ్యాన్ని ఆయాసంహలకే అమ్మేటట్లు చేయాలి. ఆ విధంగా చేసినట్లయితే ఈ నాడు భాగ్య నేరణకుగాను ప్రభుత్వంవారు చేసిన నిర్ణయం అవసరము. ఈ D.S.O. లు, T.S.O. లు, F.S.O. లు అక్కర లేదు. కేంద్ర భాగ్యం అవసరమయిందో అక్కడకు ప్రభుత్వంవారి ఆర్డర్ ప్రకారంగా ఈ ప్రాప్తీలే పంపగలరు. ప్రక్కన ఉండేటటువంటి విశాఖవద్దనుంచి భాగ్యం కావలసివస్తే, తూర్పుగోదావరి జిల్లాలోనుంచి లేకగా పంపించవచ్చు. అంతేలేకాని తూర్పుగోదావరినుంచి మలబారుకు మరెక్కడనుంచో చికాకోలుకు పంప తంవల్ల సకాలంలో అహరభాగ్యాలు అందకపోవడం రవాణా ఖర్చులకు హెచ్చు మొదలు ఖర్చువడంతో ప్రయోజనమేమిలేదు. ప్రజలకు సరసమైన ధరలకు అహరభాగ్యాలు విక్రయించబడాలంటే ఈ మిల్లులకు ఇచ్చిన రైషెన్సులు ముట్టుమొదటగా రద్దు చేయాలి. ఒక చోటనుంచి మరొకచోటికి రవాణా రద్దుచేయించాలి. D.S.O. లు, T.S.O. లు, F.S.O. లు మొదలైన అవసరపు నిర్ణయింపి తగ్గించాలి. గ్రామ మండల కాలాకా, జిల్లా కోలకతల్ని ప్రాప్తీలను సరియైన పద్ధతులమీద ఏర్పాటుచేయాలి. Central store వారికి భాగ్య నేరణ, పంపకము సక్రమించుకోవాలి. ఆ నాటి రైతులవద్దనుంచి మిగులుభాగ్యము సరసమైన ధరలకు నేరణంపడగలగాము. తక్కువ ఖర్చుతో దానిని ఇతర కరువు ప్రాంతాలకు రవాణాచేయగలగుతాము. Consumers కు సరసమైన ధరలకు విక్రయించగలగుతాము. ఈ సూచన మన్నింపగలకాలము నేడ రైతులను ఏర్పించడం, black-market ను అధిక్యపరిచేయడంతో, ప్రజలకు ఎటువంటి ఉపకారము జరుగదు. ఈ నాడు procurement జరుపబడుతున్న పద్ధతులు కాం అన్యాయంగా ఉన్నవి. వంద బస్తాలు, నయ్యు బస్తాలు పండించే రైతును వి అధికారి వాధించడు. ఈ అధికారులందరూ ఈ పెద్దరైతుల ఇంట్లకు వెళ్లి, కాఫీలు ఇచ్చి లింటారు వాళ్లైన ముహూటంగా వరిస్తారు. ఇక కిందిచేద్దా, 10 బస్తాలు, 20 బస్తాలు పండించే రైతులనే గ్రామములోకి F.S.O. వస్తే 8 బస్తాల చొప్పున, T.S.O. వస్తే 5 బస్తాల చొప్పున, D.S.O. వస్తే 10 బస్తాల చొప్పున రైతులు ఇవ్వాలంటారు. ఈ నిర్బంధన అంతా చిన్న రైతులను వెదిగినంతవరకే పెద్ద రైతులు ఎటువంటి వత్తడి లేక తప్పించుకొంటారు. వారే భాగ్యాలు హెచ్చు ధరలకు అమ్ముతారు. Black market అనేటటువంటిది. ఈ పెద్ద రైతులవద్దనుంచి, మిల్లు వాళ్ల వద్దనుంచి ప్రారంభమవుతుంది. దీనిని రూపుమాపాలి అంటే మిల్లుల కిచ్చిన

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రైషెన్సులు cancel చేయడం, ఈ భాగ్యం వర్తకాన్ని co-operative societies కి అప్పగించడంతో మార్పిడి అవుతుంది. co-operative societies వద్ద ప్రభుత్వంవారు కొలకత వద్దని కోరుతున్నాను. ఇది వరలో co-operative societies కు భాగ్య నేరణ అప్పగించినప్పుడు పని కాగాజరగింది. మా ప్రాంతంలో పనిచేసిన society అది భాగ్య నేరణచేసిన నెల పదిహేను రోజులలోనే వక్కాటి వర్కం చేసి దాదాపు అరులూల రూపాయలభాగ్యాన్ని సంతాదించగలిగింది. ఈ విషయాన్ని ఆ గమనించి ప్రభుత్వంవారు వారి capitalist mentality ని వదిలిపెట్టి co-operative societies ద్వారా భాగ్యం నేరణ, పంపకం ఏర్పాటుచేస్తారని, తద్వారా ప్రజలకు తోడ్పడు తారని ఆశిస్తున్నాను.”

MR. E. F. G. HUNTER:—“Madam, Deputy Speaker, if there is some risk of repetition in what I am going to say, you will excuse me, for the first two speeches were made in Tamil and even more difficult was the speech in Telugu. So, if I do repeat what others have stated, I hope you will excuse me. I have gone through the statement that has been placed before the House and I must confess that I find it extremely disturbing. The serious losses referred to in the fourth paragraph, are most perturbing and certainly we cannot blame the Government for those losses. But it is more vital that the Government should take action to make up those losses.

“Madam, during the debate on His Excellency the Governor's Address, a number of hon. Members of this House emphasised that the most vital problem facing the Government to-day is the problem of food, and at the risk of repeating myself, I reiterate that this is by far the most serious problem that has to be tackled to-day. It is a sorry plight in which we find ourselves, and, as has been pointed out previously, the Government must accept their full share of responsibility for the situation and, as has also been stated in this House, one of the fundamental causes of our present difficulty must be the failure on the part of the Government to press home our troubles and requirements sufficiently strongly to the Centre.

“Since I spoke in this House last, I have received a report from Kondapalli, a small village about 12 miles from Vijayavada where a considerable number of the male population are engaged in mining, i.e., hard manual labour. I am informed that there has been a very considerable cut, entirely without notice, in the rations in this area, and if a full day's work is to be given by a workman, he must be provided with adequate food. I mention Kondapalli, because I happen to know of this particular area, but there are undoubtedly many other districts similarly affected. One of the cries to-day is for more and more production, and you cannot ask workers to give you more production unless they are adequately fed. I suggest, Sir, that repercussions from the present very grave food shortage may yet result in serious consequences to the economic structure of this country, and the Government must alleviate the present distress.

“When replying to the debate on His Excellency the Governor's Address, the Hon. Leader of the House stated *inter alia* that too

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much time had been wasted in talking about food. Respectfully I disagree with the Hon. Leader of the House, and I for one will talk about food at every opportunity until matters are put right and I know I am not alone in this view. This shortage has not come upon us suddenly. It has been partly the result of failures of monsoons over a period of years for which I appreciate we cannot blame the Government, but we can, and must blame the Government for their shortsighted policy and for their failure to take adequate measures. It is not as though the carrying of big stocks places a heavy financial burden on the Government. Big stocks certainly tie up capital, but the money can always come back as and when stocks are disposed of, and in my opinion this is one of the factors which should have been put right long ago. Larger stocks should have been carried.

"Although food grains are of urgent need, it must not be overlooked that the population of South India is really more interested in more rice, and I cannot but feel that heavier importations of rice could have been secured from overseas.

"I realize that we are to a great extent in the hands of the Centre, and I appreciate that efforts have been made to move the Centre, but those efforts have not produced the results that we require, the results that the population of Madras has every reason to consider should materialise.

"I recently suggested that the Government should take independent action in securing supplies, but from what I have heard in discussions with others, this may not be practicable at this stage. That being so, this Government should in my opinion send a strong deputation to the Central Government with the object of pressing the requirements of Madras as strongly as is possible.

"Time is short. Immediate action must be taken if the people of Madras are to be adequately fed, and if the help that we require—and we have every reason to expect—is not forthcoming from the Centre, then I do hope that my previous suggestion of taking independent action in securing food supplies from overseas should be given consideration.

"One more point in conclusion. When replying to the debate on His Excellency the Governor's Address, the Hon. Leader of the House stated that he was an optimist. I also claim to be an optimist, but that does not mean that I am prepared to sit back and wait for a miracle to happen. If the people of this State are to be adequately fed, action must be taken, and we should not rest until the people's food for the coming months is assured. When the Hon. Minister for Food opened this subject for discussion, he gave a warning that July, August and September would be difficult months. I trust that, when the Hon. Minister replies to this debate, he will inform us as to the action that was taken by the Government to remedy the difficulties which he apparently knew, would be coming."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, the Justice Party in its manifesto has rightly stated that if they come

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out victorious in the next elections and form their own Government, they will devote their best attention to three items, namely, food, cloth and housing.

"Madam, those are the problems which are in the forefront and they have to be tackled by this Government successfully. This Government, I am sorry to say, has become very unpopular on account of the bad management of these three items. No doubt, there have been started some house-building co-operative societies for the middle classes and the upper classes of the people, and the Government have lent them large sums of money for building houses. Though the Hon. Minister for Harijan Welfare is talking very often about giving free house-sites to the poor, nothing substantial has been done anywhere, except some doles, some free gifts here and there being given by certain mirasdars, and the Government seem to be satisfied with them. There is no large-scale housing scheme for the poor people, for the labouring classes, anywhere in the whole of this State. Let us remember that India is one of the poorest countries and poor people are largest in number in this country. Now, under the new Constitution we are getting all the poor people to vote for the candidates standing for election. Madam, all the poor, houseless, clothless and foodless people have been enfranchised under the new Constitution. Therefore, most serious attention should be paid to these people. But I am sorry to say that as much attention as is necessary has not been paid to them. No doubt there are speeches and promises made, but they are not translated into action. The officers are doing things in their own way; and particularly in the matter of food, the officers in the districts and in the Revenue Board are doing things in their own way. I wish to say, so far as the Ministry is concerned, it is not strong enough to have a bold policy, and has no control over the officers. That is the public opinion; that is the feeling in the districts. That is the most pathetic situation to which we have come. Of course, we realize the difficulties of the Government.

"We know, our State is not producing as much as is necessary and needed for this State, and so we have to depend on the Centre to get foodstuffs either from other States or from abroad. But, I do not see any reason why this Government should not make its own arrangements to have its own agencies to get food from abroad. But, that is a matter of controversy. Whatever it is, we appreciate Government have difficulties, and so it is they have reduced the quantity of rice in the ration. All the same, I ask, 'is it doing the thing in an efficient way?' That is, are all that could be done by the Government and the officials being done in an efficient way? I come from a surplus district. I know, we have to supply rice to the deficit districts, and so procurement of rice is going on. Now, I ask, 'is that procurement being done in a satisfactory way?' If it is being done satisfactorily, why should there be such a large disparity between the target and the actual quantity procured? Why should there be so much sale of rice in blackmarket? All this only betrays inefficiency on the part of control officers. It is because the big ryots are holding off stocks from the Government, there is so much blackmarketing in the

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State, and there is so much of suffering among the poor people. It is evident that Government cannot prevent or control this state of affairs. So, I suggest, 'do not have any control in the surplus districts. Take each district as a unit. Why do you want control of food in the city of Vijayavada, situated as it is in a surplus district? There is a very large labour population in that city. More than two-thirds of the people there are labourers; and they are all poor. Now, why should you have control or informal rationing or statutory rationing there? Why not allow everybody to sell and purchase food as he likes; and ban only the food going out of the district.

Madam, recently, the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee passed the unanimous resolution that the districts of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari should be combined into one zone and free movement and free circulation of rice among these three districts allowed. Government may settle the price, Government may fix the price but they should not interfere with the internal circulation of rice. Only if it goes out of the zone, control it and prevent it. So I submit, Government should adopt bold policies.

Madam, my chief complaint is, in the surplus districts of Krishna, East and West Godavari, Guntur and Nellore, where only informal rationing prevails in the cities of Vijayavada, Eluru, Kakinada, Guntur and Nellore, Government say they will give only eight ounces of rice the balance being given in the shape of other foodgrains. Now, I shall tell the House what has happened in Vijayavada. I say this after inquiry. The pool system which till now prevailed has now been abolished. Madam, somehow, what is wrong is being done by the Government immediately. The pool system is a democratic institution. Under it we can find out what has come in on a particular date. I understand, Madam, that in the ration shops only six ounces of rice are being given to the people now. But this statement of the Government placed in our hands to-day says that eight ounces of rice are given. Madam, what about the other six ounces? Surely, people require some eatable articles. They are all mostly peasants, manual labourers, who, without nourishment cannot work. Perhaps, the Hon. Minister for Food may say, 'we shall give them plenty of wheat.' But I ask, 'where is wheat in Vijayavada?' Milo of the dirtiest kind is being offered, which people, naturally, reject. I have seen it with my own eyes. Sometimes it is red, sometimes it is green and sometimes it is brown in colour; it is all bad and spoiled stuff; naturally people reject it; and what is refused by the people is sent to the Rayalaseema and other backward districts. That is the kind of thing that is going on in the districts. So, what I submit is, 'do the thing you promise in an efficient way.' Do not promise that you will do this, that and the other thing while you actually do very little. That is the whole trouble with this Government. It is all due to the callousness of the officers, the inefficiency of the officers and the weakness of administration. I know the Hon. Food Minister; I have got the greatest respect for him; he is my friend; and I wish to tell him

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this: let him go to the districts and see for himself whether people are cursing the Congress or whether they are blessing the Congress. Please give the people whatever is possible at least as good stuff for the rest of the lifetime of this legislature so that some of the lost prestige may be recovered.

Then, Madam, as regards rationing of rice, while there is plenty of rice available in the blackmarket, very little is available for procurement. It is only 67 per cent of the target figure that has been procured in the best season for procurement, that is, immediately after harvest. Hereafter very little will be procured. Last year, the people in Vijayavada, in a surplus area, suffered almost starvation. There were complaints, there were public meetings held about the threat of famine in that surplus area. Somehow we passed through the crisis. But this year the worst crisis will befall that city. We have to pass through the months of September, October, November and December. In these months, procurement is impossible and supply also is impossible to get, and these months will test the popularity of the Government. So, Madam, I am giving a warning to my friend, the Hon. Food Minister, to pay special attention to this problem and do whatever is possible to the poor people of these districts."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Madam, Deputy Speaker, might I suggest that, as I cannot move an amendment, I may be allowed . . ."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member will be allowed fifteen minutes."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" I am very sorry it is not enough."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I am sorry I cannot give more time, for that is the definite understanding arrived at before this debate was allowed."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" I was told by the Speaker that half an hour will be allowed, but I am informed by the Chair now that only fifteen minutes will be allowed. I do not think I shall be able to finish my speech within fifteen minutes. Madam, if your ruling is that I should finish my speech within fifteen minutes, then, I have got only to resume my seat and not make a speech; for I cannot guarantee that I can finish within that time. So, I crave your indulgence to to allow me some more time. I can only appeal to you."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I can only give the hon. Member 20 minutes and not more."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Let me make it 25 minutes, as a compromise."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" No compromise, the hon. Member will have to finish in twenty minutes."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Madam, if what I speak is irrelevant, you will please pull me up."

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DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" No. Everybody can speak for half an hour without being irrelevant. We are hard up for time and so the hon. Member must try to finish up within time."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Madam, we are living in the land of democracy and I have to bow to your ruling, whatever it is."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" There is no ruling in this. I am only telling the hon. Member that the time allotted to him is twenty minutes."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Whatever is said by the Chair is a ruling. If it is your ruling that I should finish within the time allotted, I shall try."

12-30 p.m. Madam Deputy Speaker, unfortunately I am not in a position to move an amendment to the motion. If I should move an amendment, it should be to the effect that it would have been far better if the Hon. Food Minister had not placed the statement before this House. I think it is right to have the statement washed out of the proceedings of this House. It is nothing but a waste of the time of this House to place a statement like this on the table and do nothing better. The preparation of a statement like this is nothing but the job of a Tahsildar's office head clerk. We are concerned with what the Hon. Minister has got to say for the future. If one lakh tons of food are given by the Government of India as against the required two lakhs tons, he simply says that he has distributed the one lakh tons in such and such a manner. That has been the unfortunate practice of the Hon. Food Minister for the last two or three years. He says that the total requirement of rice is four lakhs of tons. Is he going to get those four lakhs of tons? His estimates in regard to arrivals have always proved wrong. Even the two lakhs tons that he expects from the Government of India have not yet arrived. He says that 108,256 tons of rice have been allotted out of which only 69,857 tons have been received. 130,000 tons have yet to be received. He envisages less procurement due to the calamity of floods in the Circar districts. How does he reconcile the issue of 2 oz. rice ration through the fair price shops with his statement on the floor of this House that the Government do take full responsibility for feeding the people in the derationed areas when some of us doubted the wisdom of derationing? Is it fair for the Government to give only 2 oz. of rice per head in the derationed areas? It is most unfortunate that the Madras Government have not been able to influence the Government of India. Time and again I have suggested that the Food Minister should visit Delhi more often. I am very glad to-day that my hon. Friend Mr. Hunter has improved upon my suggestion and proposed the sending of a delegation. If the Hon. Food Minister had been to Delhi once or twice, he had not been of much use. He should take a team of Assembly Members other than myself. I may not be able to accept his invitation even if he asks me to join the delegation."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" The hon. Member can undertake a fast unto death."

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* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" The hon. Gentleman, Mr. Raghavayya, is capable of doing it. I cannot fast even for a day. That is why I do not want to offer any such suggestion. (Interruption.)"

" If the Hon. Food Minister says that I should do it, let him give me the portfolio here and now and let me take the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Kosairam, as my Deputy Minister. The people can see the results within a week. This is not a mere challenge; I can actually prove it. Though I cannot go by air, I will travel to Delhi by the Grand Trunk Express and see that food trains are rushed to the south. If statements like the one placed on the table are sent, the Government of India will not send even the 130,000 tons. It is my earnest desire that this statement should be expunged from the proceedings, though I cannot actually move an amendment to that effect. The Government of India should not be guided by it. As I said, the statement is nothing more than the handiwork of a head clerk of a Tahsildar's office—not even a Collector's office. There is absolutely no reference to the future policy at all. We would have liked the Hon. Food Minister to say what attempts he made, what discussions he had and how he failed at Delhi. Then we, the Members of this House, can take up the matter. If we do not take it up, the general public will do it. If the public also fail to take up the matter, the voters will take charge of the situation. The Hon. Food Minister has failed to communicate the policy that he adopted during the last few months and the policy that he is going to adopt in the future."

" Even to-day rice is available in Burma out of the last year's crop. When Ceylon required four lakhs of tons, she purchased four lakhs of tons, then 1½ lakhs and again 50,000 tons thus making a total of six lakhs. I have seen from press reports that the Government of India have entered into a contract for purchasing 983,000 tons, out of which they have received 478,000. Another five lakhs of tons of rice have yet to be received. Are we not entitled to get more than 130,000 tons of rice out of this? If at least our demand had been more, the allotment would have been increased proportionately. I want the Hon. Food Minister to be serious. Otherwise let him resign. This is a fine occasion to create a political stunt. If he resigns on the food issue, he will get re-elected without difficulty. He will even be returned unopposed from any constituency in the State. It will have a telling effect if he says to the Food Minister and the Deputy Food Minister at Delhi that he had resigned. The hon. Gentleman, Mr. L. S. Karavalar, or anybody else will not go anywhere near the Food Ministry for they will dread the office of the Food Minister. If he wants to serve the country, he can do so by making this sacrifice. It will not be an actual sacrifice, for I am almost certain that nine to ten his resignation will not be accepted. Some shock tactics are necessary even as the Prime Minister of India feels to-day. Such methods should be adopted by the Hon. Food Minister and without them there is no chance of getting any more food."

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JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" Why not fast? "

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" My hon. Friend, Mr. Salam, and myself cannot be without food for four or five hours at a stretch."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member, Mr. Salam, has just entered the Chamber and he could not be aware of the hon. Member's reply to the suggestion for fasting. The hon. Member need not repeat his reply."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Madam, I claim half a minute more on account of your interruption."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" This is only an interruption to make the hon. Member desist from repeating his arguments."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" If you had pulled me up, I would have cheerfully abided by your ruling, even as I have submitted to several rulings in this House."

" I see that in Ramanathapuram there are 412 fair price shops. What is the use of having only 412 shops in an area like the Ramanathapuram district where the rains have failed for four years continuously? "

" With regard to the food budget given in the statement, I shall only call it a farce."

" The Government have increased the price of rice of the finer as well as the coarse varieties by 11 annas and of wheat by Rs. 2 per maund. This is very unscientific and unpatriotic. It is unfair on the part of the Government to impose this extra burden on the poor people who have not got the means to purchase food even at the old prices."

" Distribution of dates is not going to solve the food famine. The Government of India have failed in their duty in ordering the distribution of only half the quantity free and the sale of the other half. I hope the Hon. Food Minister will move the Government of India and see that the whole allotment is given free to the poor people as alternative food."

" The criticisms that have been levelled on the floor of this House during the last few years have been made with the best of intentions and not in the spirit of criticism for criticism's sake. It only shows our anxiety that the Government should please the people so that the party in power may get their votes and come back to power again. That is our sincere wish and prayer."

" I am really disgusted that this Government have not transmitted the views of this House to the Government of India. At any rate, we are not told as to what they did and with what result. I want to decry the Hon. Sri K. M. Munshi, but in the absence of full details I will decry him in a general way. If the Food Minister had told us about his attempts and the response of the Food Minister or the Deputy Food Minister of the Government of India, then we would have been in a better position to deal with the mistaken policy of the Government of India in greater detail. I

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hope that the Hon. Minister will tell us in his reply the attempts made by him and the Secretary to the Food Department and the response of the Government of India. I emphasize that the Government of India have done an injustice to this part of the country, this part of the country is not cared for, the Food Ministry have been treating us with contempt and neglect and they have not the slightest regard for feeding the people here due to the fact that the Madras Food Minister has not effectively impressed on the Government of India. He is such a fine gentleman. Even if one abuses him for hours, he will never get ruffled. He is administering this State not with tons of rice but with tons of patience. That is his only great qualification. I want him to be impatient with the Government of India, as impatience is necessary in this matter. Let him tell the Government of India that the public of this State will no longer tolerate their apathy."

" The Hon. Sri Munshi advises the people to take non-cereal food! How can the poor people prepare food out of wheat without oil or fats? The poor people are unable to get even a pince of salt and a chilli to take with this minimum food of cooked rice. Even the clerical staff of the Government are in this position. When this is the state of affairs, it is incumbent on this Government to feed the people with rice and nothing but rice."

" I hope that the Hon. Food Minister will send immediately copies of the proceedings of this House to the Government of India. I know that the printed proceedings are made available after eight or ten weeks. I hope that the Legislature office will bestir itself and make the proceedings available to the Hon. Food Minister in a day or two for transmission to the Government of India, and that the Hon. Minister will pursue the matter personally, and also by sending a delegation, if necessary."

" I am pretty certain that in spite of the best efforts in grow more food schemes and irrigation schemes, it will not be possible for the country to attain self-sufficiency in food in the next five years, according to my own lights. I want to mention that there is enough rice in East Asia, which the Government of India should buy. Let the Government of India say that they cannot negotiate with other countries for rice for the next five years, and let them ask the Government of Madras to make the negotiations. For, private agencies cannot import rice from Burma. The Burma Government want to negotiate at the Government of India level or at the State Government level. Let the Government of India see the realities in Burma. I may mention here that to-day is the 1st September, and we can make a forecast of the crop in Burma. If hon. Members have more knowledge like the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Swaminathan of the cultivation details of Burma, they can easily make a forecast of the crop. In July, August and September rains have come fairly in good order. The crop is good. I can give the information up to the day before yesterday. Passengers from Burma have told me that rain has been normal there, and that there has not been too much rain. Always there is the fear that there will be more rain. This year the rainfall is normal, and cultivation is going on smoothly and properly. The crop is expected to be not less than that of last year. If the Government of India do

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delay in making the negotiations for the next year it will be suicidal. They have negotiated for 2½ lakhs tons. It is absolutely inadequate. It is possible to persuade the Government of Burma, who have the highest regard for the Government of India, and particularly for our Prime Minister, to allot to us more tons of rice. Their fear is that the Government of India may not, on account of their self-sufficiency plan, take more allotments. I am glad even the Prime Minister of India has now admitted that this self-sufficiency plan is a pernicious one. He has now revised his opinion. If Burma is told that the Government of India will take 10 lakhs tons—even if it is not possible to get 10 lakhs tons, it will be somewhere between 5 lakhs and 7½ lakhs tons on account of the reduced exportable surplus—I am certain the Burma Government will allot to us the quantity they can. So, I would entreat the Hon. Minister to place this suggestion before the Government of India, and tell them that they should negotiate with the Government of Burma even now, and probably revise the agreement which they entered into earlier regarding the supply of 2½ lakhs tons or 5 lakhs tons. Then only the rice problem of South India will be solved. Before the next sittings of the House it should be possible for the Hon. Minister to think over and prepare a statement like this. But while replying to the debate, we will be glad if he will tell us that he will make serious efforts between now and the next meeting of the Assembly, and give a short statement on the efforts he has taken. There need not be a one-day debate on this. Let him make a statement, and we can have a discussion on that for two or three hours. Let him tell us then what his efforts are regarding further rice movements to this State, and what his efforts for the next five-year programme are going to be. I do hope that the Government of Madras and the Food Minister will bestir themselves and bully the Government of India in the matter. I think the time has come when this State cannot have any more patience. Supplies of rice alone will save this country. Hon. Members when they go to the electorate should tell them that they will get more rice allotted by Delhi. Humanitarian grounds—apart from elections—should impel hon. Members to say that it is necessary to get more rice allotted by Delhi.

"One more point, Madam. Where is the promised equality of treatment and equality of sacrifice? Where is it at all? People in North India are wheat-eaters. Why should they not eat wheat and give rice to the South? Why should rice be allotted to North India and wheat allotted to the South? This point also, I hope, the Hon. Minister will urge upon the Government of India. Ultimately, let us hope that when the House meets again, the Hon. Food Minister will be in a more happy position to make a satisfactory statement regarding the food situation in the State."

* DR. D. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—"Madam Deputy Speaker, the food problem in this State resolves itself into the rice problem. If there is to be enough of rice, the food problem would have resolved itself. But unfortunately the trend of circumstances seems to contribute to making rice very scarce indeed. I myself am unable to comprehend this position of scarcity of rice in this State.

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We have been getting rice for generations. Even to-day in spite of the scarcity of rice, at a particular price we can get any quantity of it. It is only at the control price that we find it very difficult to get it. How to solve this problem? Is it a real scarcity or an artificial scarcity? Is it created by the Government or is it created by the people? Is it greed of man—inhumanity of man towards his fellowmen—or is it Divine dispensation? No doubt, in our anxiety to explain away the situation we say that scarcity has been due mainly to Providential causes, that is want of rain, etc. Therefore, our Government have repeatedly blamed Providence for the scarcity of rice that is prevalent to-day. At the same time, there are other considerations. If there should be scarcity of rice, why should there be an abundant supply at a high price? The more one thinks of this problem and the more one moves about the country, one will see that there has been something wrong somewhere. Last January I was travelling from north of Hyderabad State—I happened to travel in III class. I found a great many people getting into the III class carriage, with large quantities of rice. Half a dozen people were talking together. There was a policeman in the train. There was an altercation among the people. I asked what were they quarrelling about. They said that their quarrel was about paying Rs. 2 or Rs. 5 to the policeman who was in charge of them, whether they would be handed over to the department or they would be excused. As we were nearing Hyderabad, tons of rice were thrown out from the compartment. Therefore, there must be rice everywhere. Yet there is scarcity, and the Government are called upon to provide rice for the people. As we go about the cities, we do not see any great number of people looking famished or feeling as if deprived of other comforts of life. Except for the very poor people, there seems to be plenty of rice for others. Rice is somehow got. But the only difficulty is that rice is sold at a high price, and people are compelled to pay that price. The people are compelled to neglect their other wants and somehow buy rice and live.

"There is, at the same time, plenty of wheat. Wheat is sold cheap. No doubt there is a great deal of popular prejudice against the use of wheat. But prejudice alone does not account for the unpopularity of wheat. The conveniences to make use of the wheat are not available in the villages of our State. Wheat needs to be converted into flour before it can be used. In the villages, people do not have the necessary conveniences to convert wheat into flour on a large scale. In the cities and towns, there are facilities for converting wheat into flour. The Government must see that when they dole out wheat, every attempt is made to introduce machinery or mechanical contrivances by which the ordinary villager could get his wheat turned into wheat flour. Without that contrivance, it will be impossible for him to use the wheat because he does not like to eat whole wheat. Secondly, he cannot turn it into flour. Thirdly, he does not know how to use the wheat flour. A great many people use too much oily substances along with wheat flour, and they get indigestion. Others do not know how to use it. In the Punjab and in the United Provinces, ordinary people make bread

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without using oil at all. They just knead the flour into a soft paste, and that is cooked in an urn over the burning fire. This bread is very easily digested. In fact in North India, making bread is quite a fine art. I remember some years ago when I was dining with that celebrated poet of India—Mrs. Sarojini Naidu—a servant brought in what looked like a silk cloth. I wondered why silk cloth was being served at the meal. It was softly and beautifully made out from wheat flour. It looked like silk, but it happened to be bread when touched—poetry transformed into practical food! The Government, I do not think, have exhausted all their resources of popularising wheat by simply asking people to eat wheat and also by selling wheat to the people. They must go out of their way to teach people how to use wheat and the way it ought to be used. Not only that, Madam. Wheat and rice do not exhaust all the elements of food. There is milk. An average European gets about 16 ounces of milk per day. In India we hardly get four ounces. Yet there are hundreds of cattle. We can count them by the thousand. In fact, it is a curse that we have too many cattle which cannot be properly fed. The yield of milk is therefore very low. What about our fruit and vegetables? Vegetables can take the place of rice. But vegetables also are expensive—quite as expensive as rice and wheat are. One of the chief reasons for the scarcity of vegetables is that vegetable seeds are difficult to obtain in the remote villages. But what about fruit? We are supposed to be blessed with fruits in our country? Fruit is scarce now, because seedlings are not easy to get in the villages. Therefore, the Government must have experimental farms where they can grow seedlings by thousands and distribute them to the villagers. The Government must see that people use these seedlings and grow trees that will yield fruit within six months, for example, Papaya.

“Madam, this kind of scarcity prevails and the Government are expecting the people to do everything for themselves and are trying to make out that their task was only to bring grain and sell it in the market. Of course, it is useful when people are not practically starved. But certain classes of people, particularly the respectable poor, are really suffering more than we could describe. The coolie classes are getting plenty of money and they spend all their money in buying food. Therefore, they are deprived of clothing and shelter.

“The other day in the city of Vijayavada I was staying with an old retired Government official who never had recourse to black-market. He was hardly able to get 4 ounces of sugar while within 20 miles of that place a huge factory was producing sugar. I was told at double the control price it was available in the market; you could get any quantity of sugar that you wanted. There is a very strong rumour that that factory had made several lakhs of rupees of profit during the last few years, and, yet one could not get with any sense of honesty more than 4 ounces of sugar at a time. This the Food Department knows and I have many friends in Government service who tell me in confidence that this scarcity is not natural but is artificial and is mainly due to lack of grit on the part

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of the Government. I do not blame the Government for the mistake they have made. It is a huge problem and the Government are not able to tackle it. Therefore, they must devise some means by which this artificial scarcity is not encouraged but is positively prevented.”

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—“Madam, Deputy Speaker; உணவு நிலைமையைப்பற்றி விவாதிக்கும்போது நண்பர் செட்டிநாடு ராஜா அவர்களும் பேசினார். அவரும் கர்சாரமாக பேசினார். பாவம். பேசும் போது மிகவும் நல்ல மனிதரான ஸ்ரீமான் ரோசு விக்டோரியாவைப்பற்றி யும் பேசினார். அவர் ரொம்பவும் நல்லவர் என்பதையும் அவர் ஒப்புக் கொண்டார். நானும் சொல்லுகிறேன் உணவு மந்திரி அவர்கள் மிகவும் தங்கமானவர். அவர் எனது ஜில்லாவாகியானதால் அவரைப்பற்றி எனக்கு நன்றாகத் தெரியும். அவர் உத்தமமானவர். இப்பொழுது பம்பாய் அரசாங்க மந்திரிகளும், அஸ்ஸாம் அரசாங்க மந்திரிகளும் டில்லி அரசாங்கத்தினிடம் சென்று அவரவர்கள் கேட்பாடி உணவு பொருள்களை வாங்குகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் கேட்கும் quotaவை அவர்கள் திறமையாக எந்தவிதத்திலும் வாங்கிக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள் என்பதை நாம் மறுக்க முடியாது. ஆனால் நம்முடைய ராஜ்ய மந்திரிகள் அவ்விதம் செய்கிறார்கள் அவென்றால் அதுதானில்லை. அதற்காக உணவு மந்திரியை குறை சொல்வதற்கு நான் ஒரு நாளும் முன்வரமாட்டேன். அந்த இலாகாவை கொள்வதற்கு நான் ஒரு நாளும் முன்வரமாட்டேன். அந்த இலாகாவை யாரிடம் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமோ அவ்விதம் நமது முதன் மந்திரி அந்த இலாகாவைக் கொடுக்கவில்லை. இப்பொழுதுள்ள உணவு மந்திரிக்குத் தகுந்த இலாகாவை அவருக்குக் கொடுக்கவில்லை என்பதைச் சொல்ல நான் முன்வந்திருக்கிறேன். கனம் ரோசு விக்டோரியாவிற்கு அவருடைய குணத்திற்குத் தக்கவாறு ஒரு இலாகாவை கொடுத்திருக்கலாம். உணவிற்காக பம்பாயிலிருந்து மந்திரிகள் டில்லிக்குச் சென்று கனம் மந்திரி முன்வியினிடத்தில் சொல்லுகிறார்கள், அவருடைய காரியதரிசி சொல்வதில்லை. கனம் முன்வியினிடம் சென்று சண்டை போடுகிறார்கள். அவரிடம் எதை சாதித்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமோ அதை சாதித்துக்கொண்டு கிறார்கள். அதற்குத் தகுந்தவர் நம்மிடத்தில் நமது கனம் கோபால் ரெட்டி அவர்கள் இருக்கிறார். இங்கு அவர் நன்றாகவும் திறமையாகவும் பேசுகிறார். இதைப்பற்றி நான் ஏற்கனவே சொல்லி இருக்கிறேன். அவரிடம் இந்த இலாகாவைக் கொடுக்கலாம். இன்னும் அவருடன் திறமையாகப் பேசக்கூடிய நமது கனம் மாதவ மேனன் அவர்களும் இருக்கிறார். இந்த உணவு இலாகாவை அவரிடம் கொடுத்துவிட்டு அவருடைய இலாகாவை கனம் ரோசு விக்டோரியாவினிடம் கொடுத்துவிடலாம். அவ்விதம் கொடுத்திருந்தால் அவர் வெகு திறமையாக நடத்துவார். பிறகு மாகாணத்தில் இந்த நிலைமையும் ஏற்பட்டிருக்காது.

“ஆனால் ஒன்றையொன்று சொல்லுகிறேன். நமது மந்திரிகள் அங்கு போய் உணவு பொருள்களின் quotaவை வாங்கி வருவதற்கு சக்தி இல்லாமல் போகட்டும். அதனால் பரவாயில்லை. ஆனால் தினம் தினம் இந்த மாதிரியான ஸ்டேட்மென்டுகளைப் போட்டுக்கொண்டு கிராமங்களின் மக்களிடத்தில் பீதியை உண்டாக்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கவேண்டாம். யாராவது ஒருவர் பாதிக்கப்படுவதற்காக இந்த மாதிரியாக தினம் தினம் ஸ்டேட்மென்டுகளைப் போட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கவேண்டாம். இவ்வித நிலைமைக்குக் காரணம் அதுதான் என்பது என்னுடைய சொந்த அபிப்பிராயம். உண்மையில் அன்றிருந்த ரேஷனை கிராமங்களில் எடுத்தவுடனே செட்டிநாடு ராஜா அவர்கள் பேசியபோது சொன்ன நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டவில்லை என்பதை அவருடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவராமல் என்னால் இருக்க முடியாது. ரேஷன் இருந்தபோது சாதாரணமாக கிராமங்களிலும் முனிசிபல் நகரங்களிலும் ரூபாய் ஒன்றுக்கு 1 படி அரிசியாக black-market ல் நெல்லை ஜில்லாவில் விற்கப்பட்டுவந்தது. ஆனால் இன்று ரேஷனை எடுத்தவுடன் ரோடுகளிலும் தெருக்களிலும் ரூபாய் ஒன்றுக்கு 1-1/8 படி அரிசி சர்வ சாதாரணமாகக் கிடைக்கிறது. அவ்விதமிருக்கும் பொழுது தினம் தினம் 8 அவுன்சிலிருந்து 6 அவுன்சு என்றும், 6 அவுன்சிலிருந்து 4 அவுன்சு என்றும், இப்பொழுது ஸ்டாக் இல்லை என்றும் சர்க்கார்

[Sri K. T. Kosalam] [1st September 1951]

ஸ்டேட்மெண்டு போடுவதைப் பார்த்து உணவு தானியங்களைப் பணக்காரர்கள் வாங்கி சேர்த்து வைத்துக்கொள்ளப் பார்க்கிறார்கள். ஆகவே ஒரே ஒரு வேண்டுகோளை விடுகிறேன். அது உணவு இலாகாவாக இருந்தாலும்கூட, **Civil Supplies** டிபார்ட்மெண்டாக இருந்தாலும்கூட சரி, ரிவினியூ டிபார்ட்மெண்டாக இருந்தாலும்கூட சரி இங்கு **Secretariat**லிருந்து கொண்டு தினம் தினம் இந்த அழகை ஸ்டேட்மெண்டை விடாமலிருந்தால் நல்லது. உணவு இருக்கிறதோ இல்லையோ ஸ்டேட்மெண்டு கொடுக்காமலிருந்தால் போதும் என்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். இப்போழுது எட்டு அவுன்சுக்கும்படி யார் கேட்டார்கள்? முதலில் கூட்டுவானென், பின்னாடி குறைப்பானென். ஸ்டாக் இருக்கிறதா இல்லையாவென்று யார் கேட்டார்கள்? நான்கு நாட்களுக்கு முன்னால் ஸ்டாக் இருந்தது, இப்போழுது இல்லை என்று சொல்லி குட்டையைக் குழப்புகிறார்கள். இவ்விதம் அடிக்கடி செய்து வருவதால் நாட்டில் மக்கள் மந்திரிகளைப்பற்றி கேவலமாக பேசுகிறார்கள். நம்முடைய மந்திரிகள் இவ்விதம்தான் செய்வார்களென்று அடிக்கடி புகார் சொல்லி வருகிறார்கள். திடீர் திடீரென்று நாளுக்கு நாள் ஸ்டாக் இல்லை என்றும் அதிகமான அரிசி வருகிறது என்றும் அடிக்கடி ஸ்டேட்மெண்டு விடாமலும் நாட்டில் குழப்பத்தை உண்டாக்காமலிருந்தால் போதுமானது. இது ஒருபுறமிருக்க நமது நண்பர் செட்டிநாடு ராஜா மற்றொருபுறத்தில் குழப்புகிறார். மந்திரிகள் அதைவிட இரண்டு மடங்கு குழப்புகிறார்கள் என்பது என்னுடைய சொந்த அபிப்பிராயம். இவ்விதம் குழப்பம் செய்துகொண்டிருப்பதனால் நான் பணக்காரர்கள் இருக்கும் உணவு தானியங்களை வாங்கி சேர்த்து வைத்துக் கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். இவ்வித ஸ்டேட்மெண்டினால் சேர்த்து வைத்துக் கொண்டு அதிக விலைக்கு விற்கலாம் என்று தோன்றுகிறது. அரிசி இல்லாமல் மத்திய அரசாங்கம் ஒருக்கால் கோதுமையை கொடுத்துவிட்டால் மக்கள் அரிசிக்கு என்ன செய்வார்கள்? மத்திய அரசாங்கம் அரிசி கொடுக்காவிட்டால் நம்முடைய மக்களுக்கு அரிசி வேண்டாமா என்று அதிகமான விலைக்கு விற்க அதிகமாக வாங்கி சேர்த்து வைத்துக்கொள்ளப் பார்க்கிறார்கள். இந்த நிலைமையால் இந்த அரசாங்கம் இப்படிப்பட்ட ஸ்டேட்மெண்டை கொடுக்காமலிருந்துவிட்டால் கூட நன்றாக இருக்கும்.

“இந்த நிலைமையில்தான் இந்த **portfolio**-வை முதல் மந்திரி அவர்கள் நம் மாகாணத்தில் அதற்குத் தகுதியுள்ளவரிடத்தில் கொடுத்திருக்கவேண்டும் என்று சொன்னேன். நல்ல திறமையுள்ளவராகவும், சண்டை போட்டு வாங்கிக்கொண்டு வரக்கூடியவராகவும், இல்லையெல் நண்பர் செட்டிநாடு ராஜா சொல்வது போன்று ராஜாநாமாவை எந்த சமயத்திலும் சமர்ப்பிக்க தயாராக கையில் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கக்கூடியவராகவும் இருக்கவேண்டும். அப்படிப்பட்டவரிடத்தில் இந்த இலாகாவை முதன் மந்திரி கொடுத்திருந்தால் மிகவும் நன்றாக இருக்கும் என்பதைத்தான் நான் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக **bengalgram** என்று சொல்லக்கூடிய கடலை இருக்கிறது. அது நமது மாகாணத்திற்கு மிகவும் பற்றாக்குறை. அது பம்பாயிலிருந்து அதிகமாக **import** செய்யப்படுகிறது. அங்கு அதன் விலையை ஒரு மணங்கு ரூ. 37-8-0 என்று **control** செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் சென்னை மாகாணத்தின் அதிகாரிகளுக்கு என்ன முனையோ தெரியவில்லை. அவர்களும் அதன் விலையை ஒரு மணங்கு ரூ. 37-8-0 என்று இங்கும் **control** செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஒருவன் அங்கிருந்து ரூ. 37-8-0-க்கு வாங்கிவந்து இங்கும் ரூ. 37-8-0-க்கு விற்பதென்றால் மத்தியில் அவன் செலவு செய்யும் பணத்தை தெருவிவிடுத்து எடுத்துக் கொள்வதா அல்லது கொள்ளையடிப்பதா வென்பது தெரியவில்லை. அதனால் அவர்கள் அதிகம் கடன் படுகிறார்கள். இதை எடுத்து மந்திரிகளிடம் சொன்னால் பதில் சொல்லாமல் குழிக்கிறார்கள். ஆகவே அந்நன் விலையை இங்கும் **control** செய்திருப்பது சரியில்லை.

“இப்போது இந்த **bengalgram**ஐப் போன்று குவாபி என்று சொல்லக்கூடிய மற்றொரு கடலை இருக்கிறது. இதை **control** செய்யவில்லை. அதனால் அங்கிருந்து இந்த **bengalgram**ஐ குவாபி என்ற பெயரால் இங்கு கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். அதையும் அதிகாரிகள் பிடிக்கிறார்கள். பம்பாயில் **bengalgram**ஐ ரூ. 37-8-0-க்கு வாங்கி இங்கு

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ரூ. 55-க்கு குவாபி என்று விற்கின்றார்கள். கடலையை **control** செய்திருப்பதால் இதை அந்த விலைக்கு விற்கக்கூடாது என்றும் அப்படி விற்பது தப்பு என்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். நான் ஒன்று சொல்லுகிறேன். **Control** செய்வதாக இருந்தால் நல்ல முறையில் ஒழுங்காகச் செய்ய வேண்டும். ஏற்கனவே அது நமக்கு **deficit**-ஆக இருக்கிறது. **Control** செய்வது என்பது எதோ ஒருவருடைய நன்மைக்காகத்தான் **control** செய்கிறார்கள். ஒரு இடத்தில் **control** செய்வதால் வேறு எங்கேயோ நன்மைமையச் செய்கிறார்கள்.

“மற்றொன்று இப்பொழுது **basic period** என்று ஒன்றை வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதையும் பஞ்ச வியாபாரத்திற்கு வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இதையும் நமது **Constitution**-க்கு விரோதமாக செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். பஸ் ஆயிரக்கணக்கான வியாபாரிகள் இதனால் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். யாரோ ஒருவருடைய நன்மைக்காக மத்திய அரசாங்கம் வியாபார விஷயங்களில் தலையிடுகிறார்கள். அதற்காக இந்த **basic period** என்று ஒன்றை வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். வியாபாரம் செய்வதற்கு லைசன்ஸ் வேண்டுமென்பது பொருந்துமா? ஒருவன் தன்னுடைய பள்ளிக்கூடப் படிப்பை முடித்து விட்டு 18 வயதிற்குமேல் வியாபாரம் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று விரும்பினால் அதற்குக் கட்டுப்பாடா? அவன் இந்த தேசத்தின் பிரஜை இல்லையா? அதற்காக இந்த **basic period** என்பதை வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள்! உணவு கட்டுப்பாடு பொருள்களை விநியோகிப்பதற்கு **basic period** எதற்கு? இந்த மாதிரியான **basic period** என்பதை வைத்துக்கொண்டிருந்தால் இந்த அரசாங்கத்தை வைத்துக் கொண்டுக்கு இழுக்கப் போகிறார்கள். வைத்துக் கொண்டு நிச்சயமாக இந்த அரசாங்கம் தப்பு செய்திருக்கிறது என்று தீர்ப்பு கொடுக்கத்தான் போகிறார்கள் என்பதை இப்பொழுது நான் எச்சரிக்கிறேன். ஆகவே **basic period** என்பதை அறவே விட்டுவிடுங்கள். வியாபாரிகள் அவர்கள் இஷ்டம்போல் வியாபாரம் செய்யலாம் என்று சொல்லிவிடுங்கள் என்று சொல்லுகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக நமது நண்பர் செட்டிநாடு ராஜா குழப்புகிறார்கள் என்று தீர்ப்புத்திலேயே சொன்னேன். புனியங்கொட்டையை மனிதர்கள் சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள். அதனால் அதை சாப்பிடலாம் என்று கனம் முன்ஷி சொன்னதாக சொல்லுகிறார். பருத்திக்கொட்டையை சாப்பிடச் சொல்லுகிறார் என்று சொல்லுகிறார். பெரிய மனிதர்கள் கூட பருத்திக்கொட்டைப் பாலே எடுத்து பக்குவம் பண்ணி சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள். அந்த வழக்கமிருந்து வருகிறது. பருத்திக்கொட்டையைச் சாப்பிடச் சொல்வது மூடத்தனம் என்று சொல்லுகிறார். **Sweet potato** ஐ சாப்பிடச் சொல்வது தான் குட்டையைக் குழப்புவது போலிருக்கிறது என்று சொன்னார். அவர் சொல்வது தான் குழப்புவதாக இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது **sweet potato** கூட கிடைப்பதில்லை. அந்நிய தேசத்தில் அரிசி எங்கே சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள் என்று கனம் சுவாமிநாதன் சொன்னார். அதனால் ஒன்றும் கெட்டுப் போக வில்லை என்றும் சொன்னார். உணவைப்பற்றி பேசும்போது அது **election stunt** என்று ஸ்ரீமான் நாயுடு சொல்லுகிறார். ஆனால் நான் சொல்லுகிறேன், பெரும்பாலோர் யாசாயிருந்தாலும் ஏழைகளைத் தவிர 16 அவுன்சுக்குக் குறைந்து சாப்பிடக் கூடியவர் ஒருவரும் இல்லை. அநேகச் **Black-market**-ல் வாங்கி சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள். **Black-market**-ல் தாராளமாகக்கிடைக்கிறது. ஏராளமாகக் கிடைக்கிறது. கிராமம் கிராமமாகக் கிடைக்கிறது. ஆகவே கடைசியில் நான் சொல்லுகிற தென்னவென்றால் ஒன்று, மந்திரிகள் தாங்கள் கேட்கும் **quota**வை விளம்பரமேண்டும், அல்லது நிலைமையை தெளிவுபடுத்தி விளம்பரம் செய்வேண்டும் அரசாங்கத்தின் திட்டம் என்னவென்பதை தெளிவுபடுத்தி அறிக்கை விடச் சொல்லவேண்டும்.”

* JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—“Madam, Deputy Speaker, I was amazed to hear the speech of the hon. Gentleman, Sri Kosalam, when he agreed with the views expressed by the hon. Member, the Raja Sahib of Chettinad, that the Hon. the Food Minister, Sri Roche Victoria, is inefficient and he must be prepared to resign his job if he is not able to succeed in getting the food required for the State. He must know that that idea coming from a Member

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of the Party in power is really surprising to those sitting opposite. He must realize that any responsibility in the State is the responsibility of the whole Government. That is collective responsibility. Therefore, if the Hon. Sri Roche Victoria has failed in his undertaking, I say the whole Government have failed to do their job by the people. If it is no use placing the charge at the door of the Hon. Sri Roche Victoria, Madam, there is a Tamil proverb which says *அந்த பிள்ளை தான் பால் குடிக்கும்* That means, the child which cries alone will get milk. The people in the State have been crying for food. The representatives of the people on the floor of this House have been crying for food times without number in every food debate permitted by the Government, thanks to the hon. Member, the Raja Sahib of Chettinad, and also the Hon. Ministers, particularly the Hon. the Minister for Food. But till now we have not received from the Government of India anything to satisfy fully the requirements of the people. Therefore, I feel there is something wrong in the State of Denmark. The Hon. the Food Minister placed before us a statement about the import quota so far received as against the ceiling quota allotted to this State. The quantity moved up to the 18th August 1951 and the balance to be received have been indicated. I wish he had placed a comparative statement of the figures relating to some of the important States in the country. If it had been done, we could have realized how the Government of India are treating this State in particular. We do not know what quantity the other States are getting and what quantities our State is getting.

Again, with regard to the Grow More Food Campaign, I have often said on the floor of the House that it was a grand magnificent failure, and some hon. Members on the other side have objected to that expression. Somehow or other I still feel that it is a 'grand magnificent failure'. It has not yielded results commensurate with the amount of money that has been spent. Therefore, what is the use of pursuing this will-o'-the-wisp policy which is not going to give the food that is badly required at present? I feel the only department in the Grow More Food Campaign which can be useful to the people is that relating to intensive cultivation. It is no use trying to spend money in areas where the rains often fail, where people are not able to get water. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to see that intensive cultivation is carried on in areas where there is plenty of water. Where there is plenty of sub-soil water and where other facilities are available, whatever amount the Government may spend on such an undertaking is sure to give us the required result.

With regard to procurement, I feel the Government must once again go back to the bonus scheme adopted by the ex-Premier, Sri Prakasam, some years before. I feel the bonus scheme was an inducement to the cultivator and when bonuses were offered to the people, they were prepared to give as much quantity as the Government wanted. I feel that the quantity now procured is not as much as it was when the bonus scheme was in operation. Therefore, in order to procure more, I say the Government must once again resort to the bonus scheme which was in existence when Sri Prakasam was the Premier of the State.

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"With regard to rural rationing, I have already said the other day that it was a crime committed by this Government. The statement placed before us itself agrees that the prices of foodstuffs in the derationed areas are going up by leaps and bounds. The only satisfaction of the Government is that it is steady. But the reports that are received from my constituency support the view that the prices are steadily rising and that the poor people in the derationed areas are not able to get the food they want because they have not got the money to purchase food at that price.

Again, Madam, the Government have permitted the opening of a number of relief shops or 'fair price shops', as they are called. That only indicates that they are once again adopting rationing methods in those areas. Therefore, why should not the Government once again resort to statutory rationing in those areas? They say that they have given so many tons of rice to these relief shops and that the foodstuffs are being distributed to the people through those agencies. They have perhaps adopted the policy of derationing just to avoid responsibility in the matter. I say when supply of food is the responsibility of the Government, they must take up the responsibility and see that the people who are in the rural areas also get their food.

"Madam, I find that the off-take of wheat in the State is very low and that the poor people are not in a position to purchase the high-priced wheat, and even if they are prepared to purchase it, they are not in a position to spend a large amount of money in preparing foodstuffs out of wheat. Therefore, large quantities of wheat are lying in the godowns of the Government and in the godowns of relief shops and ration shops. If this wheat is allowed to lie in godowns for a considerable period, I am afraid deterioration is sure to set in and large quantities of valuable foodstuffs will be wasted. I really do not know what arrangement the Government have made with regard to preservation of wheat, because the off-take of wheat at present is very low.

"Madam, the other day the Hon. the Leader of the House, who is not here at present, said that, even while discussing the Address of His Excellency the Governor, Members had talked about food, and they had not made any reference to or studied or offered criticism on several of the schemes embodied in the Report of the National Planning Commission. Madam, we are not dreamers; we are not wool-gatherers. We are practical men. We see before our eyes the sufferings of the people. Therefore, what is the use of studying or thinking about things which are in the womb of the future? What is wanted is 'immediate, urgent, here and now'. Therefore, it is no use laying the charge at the doors of the Members of this House that they have not studied the Report of the National Planning Commission and suggested improvements or offered criticisms on those items. Madam, the Hon. Sri Gopala Reddi the other day said, 'You are spreading only a message of misery'. We, as representatives of the people, are also as anxious as the Hon. the Leader of the House that there must be contentment, happiness and prosperity among the people. Therefore, we say that

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(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

* **SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI** :—“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, உணவு பற்றாக்குறையைப் போக்குவதற்கு மத்திய அரசாங்கம் கடைப்பிடித்த ஒரு கொள்கையை இங்கே கடைப்பிடித்தால் மிகவும் அனுசூலமாக இருக்கும் என்பதற்காக அதை இங்கே கூறுகின்றேன்.

“இந்த நாட்டில் 1½ கோடி மணங்களுக்கு அதிகமாக உப்பு பற்றாக்குறை இருந்தது. அதைப் போக்குவதற்காக இப்பொழுது இருக்கின்ற மத்திய அரசாங்கம் பொறுப்பேற்றவுடனே, எந்த இடத்தில் உப்பு உற்பத்தி செய்வதற்கு நிலம் அனுசூலமாக இருக்கிறதோ அந்த இடத்தில் எல்லாம் யார் வேண்டுமானாலும் 10 ஏக்கருக்கு உபாட்ட நிலத்தில் உப்பு உற்பத்தி செய்யலாம்; அதற்கு எந்த விதமான லைசன்ஸோ வரியோ எதுவும் தேவை இல்லை என்று ஒரு அறிக்கை விட்டார்கள். உடனே உப்பு உற்பத்திக்கான இடம் எங்கெங்கு இருக்கிறதோ அங்கெல்லாம் ஏராளமான உற்பத்தி செய்து ஒரே வருஷத்தில் அந்த 1½ கோடி மணங்கு பற்றாக்குறையை நிவர்த்தி செய்துவிட்டார்கள்.

“உப்பு பற்றாக்குறை இருந்ததைக் காட்டிலும், இன்னும் அவசியமான உணவு விஷயத்தில் பற்றாக்குறை இருக்கும்போது, அதை உற்பத்தி செய்வதற்கு ஸ்யக்கான ஏராளமான நிலமும் இருக்கின்ற போது அதை உற்பத்தி செய்யப் போதிய ஆட்களும் இருக்கையில், “வைக்கோல் போருக்கு நாய்க் காவல் வைக்க முடியுமா? என்று ஒரு பழமொழி உண்டு, அதுதான் அரசாங்கமும் அதைப் பயன்படுத்திக் கொள்ளாமல், பயன்படுத்த வறுமையாகியும் அனுமதிக்காமல் இருக்கிறது என்று சொன்னால் அது மிகவும் விசைக்கத்தக்க விஷயம்..

“நீர் வளம், நில வளம் எல்லாம் பொருந்திய தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் 40,000 ஏக்கருக்கு அதிகமாக சர்க்கார் நிலம் தரிசாகக் கிடக்கிறது என்ற விஷயத்தை நான் இதற்குமுன் இந்தச் சபையில் பேசிய பொழுதெல்லாம் எத்தனையோ தடவை எடுத்துச் சொல்லியிருக்கின்றேன். இதுவரை ஒரு ஏக்கர் நிலத்தைக்கூட சாகுபடி செய்வதற்கு அரசாங்கம் ஒரு முயற்சியும் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவில்லை என்றால் பற்றாக்குறையைப் பற்றிப் பேசி என்ன பிரயோஜனம் இருக்கிறது என்பதைத்தான் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குத் தெரிவிக்கின்றேன்.

“இருக்கும் நிலத்தை மற்றவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்க அரசாங்கத்திற்கு முடியாது போனாலும், விவசாய இலாகா என்று ஒரு பெரிய இலாகா இருந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறதே அதனிடமாவது இதை ஒப்புவித்தால் விவசாயத்திற்கு அதிக நிலங்கள் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டு இப்பொழுது இருக்கின்ற பிரச்சனையில் ஒரு பெரும் பகுதியை தீர்த்து விட முடியும். அடுத்துரைப் பண்ணையை வைத்துக்கொண்டு 40 ஏக்கரில் சாகுபடி செய்து ரோசனை அறிக்கொண்டு பல ஆயிரக்கணக்கான, பல லட்சக்கணக்கான ரூபாய்கள் செலவழித்துக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறார்களே யொழிய அவர்கள் அங்கே கண்டு பிடித்த அந்த பரிசீலனையின் முடிவைக்கொண்டு, விவசாயமாக ஒரு பெரிய பிரதேசத்தை அவர்களிடம் ஒப்புவித்து, அவர்களைச் சாகுபடி செய்யும்படியாகச் செய்தால் அதைப் பார்த்து மற்ற மிராசதாரர்களும் பயன் அடையக்கூடும்.

“உணவு விநியோக விஷயத்திலும் சில இடையூறுகள் இருக்கின்றன என்பதை கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குச் சுட்டிக் காட்ட விரும்புகின்றேன். இப்பொழுது ஆதாரப் பயிற்சிப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் நம்முடைய மாக்களும் எங்கும் சுமார் 50 பள்ளிகளுக்கு அதிகமாகத் திறந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஒவ்வொரு பள்ளியிலும் சுமார் 25 ஏக்கருக்கு அதிகமாக நிலத்தை, மாணவர்கள் அதில் விவசாயம் செய்வதற்காக, ஒதுக்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த மாணவர்கள் எல்லாம் இப்பொழுது தங்கள் கையால் மண்வெட்டி எடுத்து, நிலத்தில் வேலை செய்து, உழுது பயிரிட்டு விவசாயம் செய்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கும் இப்பொழுது இருக்கின்ற முறைப்படி 8 அவுன்ஸ், 6 அவுன்ஸ் அரிசி போதவில்லை. விவசாயிகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கின்ற அந்த அளவு அரிசியை இவர்களுக்கும் கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டி அரசாங்கம் ஒரு

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press communiqué issue செய்தார்கள். ஆனால், இதுவரை அவர்களுக்கு அந்தப் பிரகாரம் உணவு ரேஷன் அளவு உயர்த்தப்படவில்லை. அதனால், சமீபகாலமாகப் பூர்த்தி செய்துகொள்ளுகின்ற அந்த ஆதாரப் பயிற்சிப் பள்ளிகளில் இருக்கின்ற மாணவர்களுக்கு உணவு போதாது என்ற குறை சொல்லப்படுகிறது. அதை உடனடியாக அரசாங்கம் கவனித்து வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

“இந்த ஆதாரப் பயிற்சிப் பள்ளிகள் கிராமங்களில் இருக்கின்றன. அதில் படிக்கக்கூடிய மாணவர்கள் தங்கும் ஹாஸ்டல்களும் கிராமங்களில் இருக்கின்றன. இந்த ஹாஸ்டல்களை கிராமங்களில் ஏற்படுத்த வேண்டும் என்பதுதான் சர்க்கார் கொள்கை. அவ்விதமாகவே நடந்துவருகிறது. இந்த கிராமங்களிலிருந்து தாலூகா தலை நகரங்கள் பல மைல்கள் தூரம் இருக்கின்றன. சில இடங்களில் 20, 30 மைல்கள் தூரம் கூட இருக்கிறது. இவர்களுக்கெல்லாம் ரேஷன் வாங்குவதற்கு ஏற்கனவே பிரக்கா ஸ்பீஸ் ஆபீசர்களிடத்தில் வாங்க வேண்டுமென்று வைத்திருந்தார்கள். பிரக்கா ஸ்பீஸ் ஆபீசர்களிடமிருந்து வாங்கிக்கொண்டு வந்த அவர்களை இப்பொழுது தாலூகா ஸ்பீஸ் ஆபீசர்களிடமிருந்து ரேஷன் வாங்கிக் கொள்ளவேண்டுமென உத்தரவு வந்திருக்கிறது. ஒவ்வொரு வாரமும் 30, 40 மைல் தூரம் பிரயாணம் செய்ய வேண்டிய நிலைமை இவர்களுக்கு இப்பொழுது ஏற்படுகிறது. அப்படி இவர்கள் தாலூகா ஸ்பீஸ் ஆபீசர்களைப் பார்க்கச் செல்லும்போது, அந்த ஆபீசர்கள் சுற்றுப் பிரயாணம் போக வேண்டியிருப்பதால் அவ்வாறு போய்விடுமோது, இந்தக் கிராமங்களில் உள்ள ஹாஸ்டலில் இருக்கும் பிள்ளைகள் பட்டினி கிடக்கும் நிலைமை ஏற்படுகிறது. ஆகையால், இதை உடனடியாகக் கவனித்து அவர்கள் கஷ்டத்தை நிவர்த்திக்க அரசாங்கம் முன்வரவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

“இந்த உணவு இலாகா விஷயத்தில் அரசாங்கம் எத்தனையோ சிரத்தை எடுத்துக் கொண்டுதான் இருக்கிறார்கள். அரசாங்கத்திற்கு இருக்கும் கஷ்டத்தை நாங்கள் உணராமலில்லை. ஆனால், நிர்வாகத்தில் செய்யக் கூடிய சில சீர்திருத்தங்களைச் செய்ய முன்வருவார்களேயானால் இந்தப் பற்றாக்குறையின் பெரும் பகுதியை நிவர்த்தி செய்துவிடமுடியும். அவற்றில் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் கவனம் செலுத்தவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொண்டு என்னுடைய உரையை இத்துடன் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.”

* **SRI N. S. VARADACHARI** :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no denying the fact that we are facing an awfully bad situation. It is easy to take advantage of the present situation and try to criticise the Government. I do not intend to follow this line of attack. The statement placed before us has been described by at least one hon. Member as one that is fit to be scrapped. I do not think so. There is some use in statements like this. I may call it a matter-of-fact statement. While I do not propose to go into the statement at any length, I would like to draw attention to certain aspects of the food situation as disclosed in the statement. I refer to paragraph 7 which is rightly called the ‘Food Budget’, for the calendar year 1952. In this connection, I wish the House to notice one important fact, viz., that at the end of the year the stock in rice will be only about 4,000 tons for the entire State and 165,000 tons in wheat. How I wish, Sir, that this was not so! Even at the end of the year, we will not be in sight of the new crop in many districts. The rice stock at the end of the year should be at least as much as it is to-day, viz., about 100,000 tons. What stock we have on the 18th August this year should be the stock available to us at the end of December 1951. Otherwise, we will be facing a breakdown. We have taken limited responsibility in introducing rationing in towns and that too in deficit areas to the extent of 6 ounces only per head.

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We have done well in putting down Government responsibility to the minimum. We can very well tell the Government of India that we have done our part and the stocks that will be left with us at the end of the calendar year 1951 will be so slender that we cannot perhaps maintain rationing even to the very limited extent that we have undertaken at the present moment. I do not know what stocks will be available from the new crops and what further stocks can be procured within the State in view of the damage sustained in certain parts of the two districts, viz., West Godavari and East Godavari. That is a point to be taken note of and it is well to impress upon the Government of India even from now that at least temporarily we must be enabled to keep stocks which we may perhaps be able to return not next year, but perhaps the year after next at least to the extent of the stocks that we have at present on hand. I wish the stocks were at least ten times of what is promised at the end of the year. We may also straightway tell the Government of India that the off-take of wheat may somewhat be less than anticipated and may leave us a bigger stock at the end of the calendar year and we will be prepared to forego a portion of wheat so that we may be reimbursed with rice. In this State, the food problem is the rice problem as pointed out by the previous speaker and it is good that we prepare ourselves towards this end. I wish to draw attention to another interesting part of the statement, viz., the Appendix, which amply proves what I have been saying to this House from time to time. We find that all the districts, with the exception of Tanjore and Madras City, have been mentioned there. Madras City is not, of course, a district, but only a rationed area. Thus, Tanjore district alone is left out. The location of fair price shops in all the districts with the exception of Tanjore indicates that people are still struggling to obtain enough food for them. In the Ceded districts, the position is not so bad except in Chittoor. In all the surplus districts, the position is bad. Let us note the number of fair price shops in the various districts. In East Godavari it is 392, in West Godavari it is 306 and in Guntur it is 491 and so on. I have only given an illustration of the position. This shows that the division of the various districts into surplus and deficit districts is wholly wrong. The idea should have been to encourage the surplus producer to grow more and deliver the surplus and the deficit producers should be helped to an ever-increasing extent. The Government have classified roughly the State into two categories, viz., surplus districts and deficit districts. This has brought about the phenomenon that even in surplus districts we have to maintain as many fair price shops as are maintained in the so-called deficit districts. While I have stated what I feel regarding the statement which throws revealing light on the present situation, I wish to offer the following suggestion for making good of what we have lost all these days.

"Imports are no doubt good, but they are not always easily available and in the present context of world events it is only possible for such imports to take place at governmental level. It is to use crying hoarse that this State has been let down by the Government of India. It is not so, Sir. If India

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has to pass through this food crisis, all States including the Centre, will have to put their heads and their efforts together with the sole object and purpose of making this country at some future date self-sufficient, if not wholly, at least 95 per cent self-sufficient. We cannot really import all the time. Our economic status is not such that such imports will bring us any good. We have not yet intensified our industrial output. We are slack in our production. This would make it more and more difficult for a country like ours to import food all the time while maintaining trade balances favourable to this country by export of essential raw materials that ought to be available to the industrial output in this country.

"I do not agree with the Raja of Chettinad that we should lay emphasis not only for the present year but also for the next five or six years on the availability of food imports sufficient for our requirements and the consequent building up of stocks. No doubt rice from Burma on a loan basis would be helpful. But that does not mean that we should lay undue emphasis on imports.

"Particular emphasis should be laid on increasing our production. We must see that our production is increased. There should be efficiency in the matter of production. Every surplus producer in the districts must be roused to a sense of responsibility. I would like the Government to tell every surplus producer that he should not accumulate much stock but that he should see to it that his surplus is shared by the local citizens in his neighbourhood. Suppose for instance there is a landlord who owns about 100 acres in a district. He should be informed that unless the local residents near about his place share with him his surplus produce, he can expect little help from this Government in several matters. That is the spirit with which production is to be encouraged.

(At this stage the Deputy Speaker occupied the chair.)

"Madam, there are several things still remaining to be done. We must see that loans are granted in time to the cultivators and we must also see that manure reaches them before the sowing season. We must have a planned device to see that agriculturists do not suffer for want of manures. For instance, thousands of tons of groundnut cake are waiting to be carried from the Ceded districts down to the south. The Government leave it to chance. Is it a fair arrangement? No doubt the Government of India have given top priority for food. They should consider that manure is as essential as food. Manure should be regarded as equivalent to food. Now the Government allows every producer 12 ounces of rice, on a permit system. But there is a certain amount of looseness in the administration. I know that some sort of trick is being played by several producers. I do not wish to enter into a controversy over it. Thousands of tons of grain are being smuggled into the city and towns. A salutary check should be put on this by the Government.

"For instance, if there is a villager who is a surplus producer, he must be allowed to oblige his friends or relations in the deficit

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districts round about his place to share his surplus. This should be done *with* the knowledge of Government. The Government should see to it that no mischief is being done in this matter.

"I would also like the Hotel Associations being allowed to procure their own rice. They should be allowed to make their own arrangement with due intimation to the Government. By this the Government would be relieved of some of its administrative responsibility. This would go a long way towards relieving the food shortage experienced by the boarders.

"Development of co-operatives for breeding bulls for hire or for storing machinery for hire to the agriculturists should also be undertaken by the Government. The servicing establishment for repairs should be increased. It is no use saying that we have installed a pump in one village or something like that. Nowadays we see that the agriculturists are obliged to pay abnormal sums for repairs to their engines or pumps, if it is done by the servicing establishment. Why not the Agricultural Department straightway recruit the staff for servicing establishment, say, one mechanic for every fifty engines maintained in the deficit districts? To-day due to the installation of engines and pumps for agricultural purposes, the deficit districts are being maintained. What will be the lot of the cultivator if at the time of the sowing season or at the time of transplanting, the pumps do not work properly and consequently water-supply is not ensured in a proper manner?

"I should relate to the House my own experience. I belong to an area where unfortunately not a particle of rain has fallen. Even though it had rained in some places, my area has not had that good fortune. I am not a surplus producer, Sir. I own a few acres and depend on the pump for water. Because the pump was not working properly, with considerable difficulty I got the spare parts, and had to hurry to the place and see to its being repaired immediately, lest my produce should be affected. I returned to the City after this only at 1-30 in the night.

"It is time that the servicing establishment is made available to these districts without delay.

"I have one more suggestion to make. We must solve this 'Bull' problem. It is no use the Government saying 'Oh, we have done this or that'. They must see to it that the cultivators are allowed to use healthy good draught bulls through co-operatives worked for that purpose.

"If all these are done, we would have gone a long way towards removing some of the difficulties that we are experiencing now."

* SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker. we are now nearly eight months from the time when decontrol was introduced. Details are not wanting to show that things have improved since then. With the advent of wheat from America and other places, one could say that the food problem has definitely improved. It is not so bad as has been depicted by some of the previous speakers. Raja Muthiah Chettiyar would say that the entire responsibility for the deterioration in the food position is due

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to the Central Government and the result of the failure of our Food Minister getting in close touch with the Centre. He may point out to the Food Minister and say 'because you have no more suggestions to make, it is better you resign; I and Mr. Kosalram may be better able to carry on the administration so far as food is concerned'. He gave a tip to the Hon. Minister to threaten to resign on the food issue so that he might get elected easily from any constituency in the next elections. Here he lets the cat out of the bag. By talking of 'food, food and always food' in the Assembly, perhaps the Raja Saheb may be thinking of winning in the next Assembly elections. But I say that the people are made of better stuff. They have the capacity to choose the correct men. They will not be moved by occasional outbursts of a few individuals.

"Madam, I would like to make a new suggestion. As has been pointed out by my friend Sri Natesa Chettiyar it is better for us to de-control completely, if it is possible. I say that nothing would be lost if this is done. In this connexion I would like to refer to the term 'open market' used by the Hon. Minister. It is a new term. I think perhaps he has used it, because nowadays we have got accustomed to the term 'black-market'.

"Is it because the Government are not able to sell rice at the price at which people would like it to be sold, they have admitted openly that rice is being sold in the 'open market'?

"I suggest to the Government that after guaranteeing a basic ration of 6 oz. or so to each and every one, why not Government permit the producers to sell the remainder in the 'open market'. The Government would thereby reduce their commitments. Competitive selling would help to keep the price level steady. This is prevailing even now in Madhya Pradesh.

"Considering what has happened in the past and taking account of the present conditions, I feel that the price that we are paying for the imported rice is too much and is nearly twice and more than the price offered to our cultivators. It is a heavy burden on the latter which should be at once removed.

"I would strongly urge the Government of Madras getting in immediate touch with the Centre and see that a proper decision is arrived at in fixing the 'economic price' of paddy. Otherwise the tendency would be to raise other crops which would fetch 100 per cent more than rice or other cereals. Though the Economic Adviser to the Government has stated plainly in his book that the price is inadequate, yet nothing has been done. I do not attribute it to want of capacity on the part of the Hon. the Minister as the Raja Saheb has put it. But I would invite the Minister's attention to this aspect of the question. We have been crying hoarse that the cultivator should be paid a better price for his paddy and that the facilities afforded to him should not be curtailed. It is not fair for the Government to continue the present policy so far as the agriculturist is concerned. It is not in the interests of production. It is because we follow such a policy that the agriculturist resorts to production of commercial crops like sugarcane, etc., which pay one hundred per cent more than food crops. Let

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the Hon. the Minister take up this question in right earnest and see that he gives better prices for paddy at least in the coming season.

"One word more, Madam, and I have done. My hon. Friend, Sri Kosalram said that if the present state of affairs was allowed to continue for long, it would be the moneyed merchant that would get the maximum benefit and that the agriculturist would be left with nothing. I entirely agree with him. It is the merchant class that makes the poor agriculturist resort to black-marketing by asking him to take his produce to places of scarcity. In my own district of Tiruchirappalli which is more or less a surplus district, I know not cart-loads but lorry-loads of paddy are taken to Karur—a station nearest to Coimbatore—for being removed to the Coimbatore district. There the merchants get better prices for their paddy than in their own district. Of course, they pay a little more to the cultivator in my place but ultimately they get thrice or four times what they pay to the producer as black-market price. If we only tell the cultivator that he will get better prices for foodcrops, then there will be the incentive for him to produce more of foodcrops. The present system benefits the merchants more than the producer. It may be taken as certain that no producer of the ordinary variety—I mean persons who own small extents of land and not those who own and cultivate 50 or 100 acres of land—can afford to keep his paddy for long. It will be impossible for him to make both ends meet if he were to keep the paddy with him unsold for long. He wants to dispose of his paddy as early as possible because he wants to pay off his debts and meet his daily needs. His demands are so pressing that he cannot afford to keep stocks of paddy with him for an indefinite period. To cite an example, people in Tanjore are prepared to sell their paddy at one rupee less per maund than the controlled price only in order to meet their urgent demands. I am also one such person. I have sold my paddy at one rupee less per maund than the controlled price because I require money to pay for the education of my boys. I would press all these points for the consideration of the Government so that they may see that things take a better shape in times to come."

*SRI K. LINGA RAJU :—“ఉపాధ్యక్ష, ప్రతిపది ఆనెల్ల సమావేశము ఆరంభమునకు 15 రోజు ఈ ఆహారపదార్థ గురించి ఇరవై జరుగుతూ ఉండడము, ఆ రోజున సభ్యులంతా కూడ తమతోకాని ఇక్కడ నెలలున్నామో ఉండడము జరుగు తోంది. ఈ సమాఖ్య ఇది సీతమృత్యుని అయిపోయింది. మంత్రిగారు ఇరవై ఆరంభంలో ఒక రిపోర్టును సభ్యుల ఎదుట ఉంచడం, ఆ రిపోర్టులో కొన్ని అంశాలను చూపించి ఒక కాకి—రాక్షసులకు చుట్టును చూపించడంలా ఆకారమైపోయింది. వారి రిపోర్టులో ప్రచురించబడి అంతా చూడ, “ఇది కాకి మార్గము, రాక్షసురీ”, “ఇది రాక్షసురీ మార్గము, రాక్షసురీ” అనే విధంగానే ఉంటూ ఉంటాయి. “ఈ సంవత్సరము ఇంత వంట అంచనా వేకాము, ఈ అంచనాలో ఇంతే వండింది, ఇంత ఆహారపదార్థము మనకు కొరత ఉన్నది. ఈ కంటేన కొద్ది వంటలో ఇంత మాత్రమే సేరకు చేయగలిగాము, అందువల్ల రేణువు ప్రమాణములూ చాలా తక్కిన వానికన్న” అని ఈ రిపోర్టు సారాంశంగా ఉంటోంది. ఈ రిపోర్టులు ఇలా ప్రచురించడం, మొరత సభ్యులు చర్చించడం జరుగుతున్న చే కాని ప్రజల స్థితి నానాటికి

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తీసుకుంటున్నామో. కొంతకాలము 4 టన్నులు కొంతకాలము 2 టన్నులు, మన కొంతకాలము 1 టన్ను మళ్లీ మళ్లీ అరటన్ను. రేణువు ఇస్తామనే ధోరణిలోకి వచ్చేటట్టుంది మన ప్రభుత్వం స్థితి.”

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—“మీరు తెలుగులో మాట్లాడినందువలన ఫలిత మేమిటి? మంత్రిగారి తెలుగు తెలియడకదా?”

SRI K. LINGA RAJU :—“ఇదివరకల్లా ఇంగ్లీషులో మాట్లాడుతూనే వచ్చాను. ఆప్పుడు మంత్రిగారికి తెలిసిన ప్రమాణమేమి కనిపించలేదు. ఏ భాషలో మాట్లాడిన ప్రమాణముకీ లే. అయితప్పడు, దేశంలోని ప్రజలైనా సులభముగా తెలియటానికి ఏమిగా ఉండేటట్లు తెలుగులోనే మాట్లాడుతాను. ఈ విషయంలో ఈ ఉదయం ఆరవంలా మాట్లాడిన సభ్యుల మనవియ్యారుగానూ నాకు దారిచూపారు.

“ఈనాడు మా కల్లాలు మిగులు ప్రాంతాలైనాకూడ, అహారభాగ్యాలైనా రేణువు ప్రజలు పడుచున్న బాధ వెళ్ళవలసి కాదా కష్టం. విశాఖకుటుంబం విలారువరకు ఎవరైనా రైల్వేలో ప్రయాణంచేసివచ్చియితే, ప్రజలు పడుచున్న ఆవస్థలు కొంతాకీ దూడవచ్చు. ప్రభుత్వము ఇచ్చేటటువంటి 4 టన్నుల రేణువుతోనే ప్రజలు కొడుపు నింపుకొంటున్నారని ఎవరు అనుకోరు. ఇక బాక్స్ ఎలా కాలక్షేపం చేస్తున్నారో, ఏ విధంగా ఎంతోకా బాక్సులకు వియ్యాన్ని సంపాదించుకొంటున్నారో అనే విషయాలూ ఈ క్షయనికే ఎరుక. రేణువు ప్రాంతాలైనా తెలియ, కొద్దిపాటి—శేరు, రెండు శేర్లు వియ్యానికీకూడ, రైళ్ళైన, క్రొవ్డకూడ ప్రయాణం చేయవలసిన పరిస్థితులు ఏర్పడ్డాయి. శ్రీలు, పురుషులు, పిల్లలు అనే విషయాలేకుండా పాలీసు పాటించు గురికావడమూ. బాక్స్ కొడుపుకు కావలసిన వియ్యాన్ని ప్రభుత్వం వారు ఇవ్వలేదు సరికదా, ఎక్కడనుంచో బాక్స్ అవసరానికి సరిపోయిన వియ్యాన్ని తెచ్చుకొంటున్న బాక్సుల బాటదర్జులతో బాధించడం నామట్టుకు చాలా అమానుషంగా కనిపిస్తుంది. మార్పు గోదావరి, విశాఖకుటుంబం, శ్రీకాకుళం కల్లాలు కలిసి ఒక బోనుగాచేసి ఆహారభాగ్యాల సేవగా వదిలివెట్టినట్లుయితే ఏమి ఇబ్బంది ఉండదని ఈ సభలో అనేకసార్లు చెప్పుకున్నాం. అన్ని కల్లాల పైదే కమిటీలు ఏర్పాటు చేసినవి. కాని వాటిని అలించిన పాలించిన ప్రభుత్వం కనుపించదు. ప్రజల బాధలు తప్పుడంటే. ఈ బాధల కన్నీటికి ఏమి కారణం అని అలాచిస్తే, ప్రభుత్వంవారు ప్రకటించే ఈ రిపోర్టులే తప్ప వేరేమి కాదని నా అభిప్రాయం. ఈ రిపోర్టులన్నీ స్థానికంగా ఉండే అధికారుల మాత్రమే అంచనాలపై ఆధారపడి ఉంటాయి. ఆహారభాగ్యాల విషయంలో ఈ అధికారులకు ఏమి తెలియదు. వస్తాకు ఎన్ని కుంబులు ఉంటాయో తెలియని ఈ అధికారుల విజ్ఞానాన్ని ఆధారంగా తీసుకొని అంచనాలను తయారుచేసి ఆహారభాగ్యాలను అంకణంచేసివచ్చియితే ప్రజలకు ఇక్కట్లాల తప్పవు. ఈ రిపోర్టులయొక్క అంచనాలయొక్క దుష్ఫలితాలకు నిస్సహాయులైన మాతినారి చేసుకొని కేవలం పాటకజనం ఈనాడు ఆనభవిస్తున్నాడు.

“ఆహారభాగ్యమాత్రముల మనకిచ్చిన ఈ ‘స్టేషన్ టో’ పరిశీలించినట్లుయితే, మనకు బాధపడే విషయాలు మనవిలేస్తాయి. మొదటగా, ఈ సంవత్సరం వచ్చిన ప్రాంతాలలో వర్షాలులేవని గోల, ఉత్తరాన్న వరదలువచ్చి వంటలు వెచ్చిస్తూ యన్న గోల, దక్షిణాన్న వర్షాభావమువల్ల వంటలు మాడిపోతున్నాయని వివాదం, ఇక చివరికి వాతే ఫలానా ఫలానా ఉదారులు ప్రభుత్వానికి జ్ఞాపనివారకారం 12 బస్తాలు, 25 బస్తాలు, 30 బస్తాలు భర్తీ (మట్టి) ఇచ్చారు అని కనిపిస్తున్నది. ఈ రిపోర్టు చూసినట్లుయితే నాకేమీ ‘అప్పువారి లోగిల్లు భర్తీ లోగిల్లు’ అని పాడుకోవలసిన మట్టి రిపోర్టుగానే కనిపిస్తోంది. దీనివల్ల ప్రజలకు ఎటువంటిబాధకూ

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are making arrangements in this regard. Madam, the people have been reduced to such a state that they are not in a position to buy even the foodgrains that are available. Their purchasing capacity is little or nil. All this shows that we will be faced with a famine soon.

2-16 p.m. "For this, I cannot simply throw the blame on the Government. The Central Government and the people are also responsible to a certain extent. Some time ago, when I was in Bombay, I had the opportunity of going through certain magazines published there wherein the Central Government Food Minister had been depicted as 'Famine Minister'. I cannot see any justification for the people of Bombay to call India's Food Minister as 'Famine Minister'. In fact, it is we who must call him as 'Famine Minister' because he has not given us enough food. If the Hon. Minister calls for statistics regarding supplies of food made to the various States and also to this State, he will find that the Madras State is not getting sufficient quota of food according to her population and that the States of Bombay, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are getting more than what they should get."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—"That shows the inability of your Government!"

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—"But I will not say like that. All of us, including the hon. Gentleman Mr. Nagappa, should share the responsibility. Why should other provinces get more food and why should our province get less? If we go through the statement of the Hon. Food Minister of the Government of India, we find that he is not able to increase our quota of food. It is a known fact that food is plentifully available in Asiatic countries. We can get more food from even Burma. In the current year, Ceylon was able to get more rice from Burma. India also would have got more if the Government of India had approached the Government of Burma earlier and made an agreement. Even now I want to tell the Hon. Minister to tell the Hon. Food Minister, Government of India, to rush up to Burma immediately and make arrangements for more rice for the next year.

"If the Central Food Minister is not agreeable to this course, I will then suggest to the Hon. Food Minister to ask the Central Government permission to procure rice from Burma for the whole of India and if that is not possible, at least for the State of Madras. If they are not agreeable even to this, then we can definitely put the blame on the Central Government and its Food Minister. In the course of the debate, many members advocated decontrol. When I think of decontrol, my mind goes back to the days of Bengal Famine. It is true that controls are not being managed effectively not only in our State but in the whole of India. There is nothing wrong in what the hon. Gentleman Janab Abdul Majid said that 'there is something rotten in the State of Denmark'. Things are not well here. Madam, this reminds me of my visit to Denmark last year. When I landed at the Port of Copenhagen, the Customs Officer, who scrutinized my passports, gave me fifteen coupons, written in Danish language. As I could

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not understand the Danish language, I asked one of my friends as to what those coupons were for. He explained to me that those were my ration coupons for food. Immediately I suggested to my friend that I was going to stay in a hotel and therefore there was no need for food coupons. I was then told by my friend that I would not get breakfast or tea in Denmark without surrendering a coupon. So effectively was control administered in Denmark. After four or five days, I was taken by my friend to the famous castle—green in colour—which is associated with the famous tragedy of Shakespeare—Hamlet. Later, I was taken to the co-operative agricultural farms. I was struck with admiration by the standard of living in that country. Though the saying goes that 'there is something rotten in the State of Denmark', literally I found nothing wrong or rotten there."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"Nothing wrong in Denmark."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—"Yes, Madam. Here conditions are different. In the statement given, it has been stated that in the district of Ramanathapuram, limited quantities of foodgrains are available. I would only say that the Government have not taken the correct figures in Ramanathapuram district. True, in some of the areas bordering Tanjore district, some foodgrains are available, and smugglers from Tanjore district are selling rice in black-market. Though there are checks, they are able to sell rice in black-market. But rice is not available in the whole of Ramanathapuram district. Recently, I was touring my constituency—Sivaganga taluk—and I had been to my village called Palayanur. It is six miles away from the Maudrai-Ramanathapuram road. There is no road communication to that village. There I saw very horrible and pitiable scenes. I saw the people of that village eating sweet potatoes and some broken blackgrams usually used as cattle fodder, for getting more milk. The villagers told me that they had not seen rice for the last two months and that they were living only on blackgram, and that those who wanted to eat rice had to go to neighbouring bigger Panchayat towns. Immediately I wrote to the District Collector to open relief shops there and the Collector was pleased to write a letter that he had already ordered to open relief shops in that village. I thought the matter ended there. Subsequently, about a fortnight ago, I had been to that village. To my surprise, I was informed by the villagers that they had not been favoured with a relief shop. I got wild and immediately wrote a letter to the District Collector referring him to his previous communication to me. The Collector wrote back saying that there was something wrong somewhere and that he had wired to the Revenue Divisional Officer to immediately open a relief shop. The Government have not been able to provide relief shops all over the district. My last plea to the Government and also to the Hon. Food Minister is that they should fight with the Central Government to get more quota of food, if not more at least the equivalent to what the other States are getting."

* JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, mysterious are the ways of Providence but strange are the ways of Governments—not only strange but amazing and even astonishing

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so far as this vital problem is concerned. The Government know and admit times without number that whenever an article is in short supply the only remedy is control and rationing. If this is the wholesome principle which the Government have to follow in a vital problem of supplying food to the people of the State, I fail to understand the mentality of the Government in removing controls in important areas where millions of people live. This policy has created all this trouble, mischief and heartburning throughout the State. I can understand when the Government say that the Central Government do not come to their rescue. I agree that the food problem is an All-India problem. I sympathize with this Government for all that they have been doing in pressing for more food from the Centre. As is stated in this statement of the Hon. Food Minister, they have succeeded in getting now ten lakhs of tons of foodgrains which include two lakhs of tons of rice. But this Government should follow a uniform policy. Either they should have control or decontrol. They should not have both. That is the main problem with which we are confronted to-day. In my own district, I find in the derationed areas the price of rice is Re. 1 to Re. 1-4-0 per seer and it works out to Rs. 42 to Rs. 50 per mura. When there was control, rice was only sold at Rs. 15 per mura. And the Government perhaps thought that by derationing these areas and leaving the people to their own fate they would be able to get enough rice to eat.

8-30 p.m. "The Government have abdicated their own duties or responsibilities so far as the feeding of the millions of people in the derationed areas is concerned. It is the primary responsibility of the Government which they have so irresponsibly abandoned. This has created a very, very unhappy situation. Perhaps Government thought that the people would get enough rice and would be able to feed themselves. The Government have committed a grave error in thinking that way.

"Now, Madam, when was this derationing introduced? If the Government thought it was a good thing, it should have been introduced at the proper time. But when was it actually introduced? After the first crop in my district had been requisitioned and deliveries made to the stores, suddenly decontrol orders went down to our district and the tenants and others who delivered the first crop paddy or rice to the stores thought there was to be no more rationing in their areas, and whatever was available then and whatever came from the second and the third crops were simply sent out to places where they could get better prices. In that way, rice was scattered all over and no rice was available in the villages. There was no control on movements of rice. It is all a sorry state of things over there in the villages. Let me quote an instance which actually happened and which came to my knowledge. A lorry load of rice was taken by a powerful landlord from one part of our taluk to a place outside the taluk for sale. The procurement officials of my taluk stopped the lorry at a place called Mudabidri and found on examination that rice was being transported. They seized the rice and the lorry. But what happened then? The powerful landlord ran to Mangalore and what did he get from

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there? He came back with an order for the release of about 90 muras of rice and the lorry, and the rice was released and the lorry was released. What can the poor procurement official do? Who is responsible for this? Not only this. That powerful landlord gets an order or rather a direction to the authorities concerned, perhaps the District Commercial Tax Officer, asking him to issue a licence to this very man for selling the rice in that place. Could not the authorities have taken possession of the rice and delivered it to some proper agency of the Government or sent it on to the rationed areas or to the fair price shops? That was not done.

"These are the evils of derationing rural areas and I think Government were not well-advised in keeping the two systems to exist side by side in this State. We know that we have great scarcity of rice in our own State. According to the figures furnished in the statement placed on the table of the House, the deficit is about 8.7 lakhs of tons. The total production is estimated at 40 and odd lakh tons. Do the Government think that this deficit of 8.7 lakhs is not available in this State? It is available. But on account of the blunders committed by the Government that quantity mentioned as deficit has escaped. Government have failed in their attempt to procure this 8.7 lakhs of tons and the Government of India is not coming to our rescue nor is it giving us a free hand to get rice from anywhere as we choose. The hon. Member Raja of Chettinad and many prominent men of this State and even the Chamber of Commerce here made an offer to get rice from outside especially from Burma. Why should not our State be given a free hand to get the required quantity of rice? After all, our requirement is only 8.7 lakhs of tons of rice. Is it not possible to procure that or get it from outside? Instead of doing that, the Government have derationed the rural areas.

"And, Madam, what is it that the Government are doing to feed the people? They have divided them into three or four categories. By this they perhaps want to cover the sins they have committed. Some class of people will get only 2 ounces, others will get 4 ounces and some others will get 6 ounces and so on. Why all this confusion? Why all this discrimination? Hunger is hunger and food is food. All are human beings and all must be treated alike. The division of the people into different categories is not only inhuman but unnatural and unjust. A Government, if it cares for the people, must see that all people are treated alike, in the matter of hunger. People must be given sufficient food. I don't grudge Government giving 8 ounces to certain classes of people. But they should give the same quantity to others also. Why make an invidious distinction? Why say we have statutory rationing in certain areas and allow people in producing areas to have more? Give only a uniform rate. People in the producing areas are bound to give us something. They are bound to help us. There are many people in the State who get nothing.

"Then, Madam, Government say they have opened fair price shops and supply 2 ounces of rice to the people. There are about 229 fair price shops now in South Kanara while we had thousands of ration shops when we had statutory rationing. How can these

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229 shops cater to the needs of the lakhs of people in the derationed areas? I say, the Government have committed a great blunder in this respect. I feel really sorry that they have not done anything in the matter of supplying rice to the people."

"Then, Madam, it is stated that the Government have introduced the levy system in the South Kanara district and that it is being continued. When was it introduced? Just when the agricultural operation started in June or July. Was it the proper time to harass the tenants and the agriculturists and get rice from them whenever we wanted? They have nothing for their own cultivation purposes and for their own consumption, and they cannot find rice in the derationed areas. The tenants and the agriculturists are put to great hardship. Even a mura of rice is not available at times. Now it is stated in the report placed on the table of the House that rice is available only in very limited quantities in the open market in the derationed areas in South Kanara. That is the Government's admission. That means that derationing is a failure. And the Government further state that there was a slight increase in the price of rice. In South Kanara, the price was Rs. 15 and now it is Rs. 50. Is this a slight increase? The Government have the audacity to say that it is a slight increase. I wish the Government had changed this kind of mentality."

*SRI P. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"Madam Deputy Speaker, உணவு பிரச்சனை சம்பந்தமாக கனம் உணவு மந்திரி அவர்கள் ஒரு யாதாஸ்து சமர்ப்பித்திருக்கிறார். அந்த யாதாஸ்தில் தொடர்ந்து நான்கு வருஷங்களாக நமக்கு இயற்கை சரியாக இல்லாததால் இந்த உணவு பஞ்சம் ஏற்பட்டுவிட்டது என்றும் உணவு உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்குவதற்காக எவ்வளவோ ரூபாய்களை வாரி இறைத்தும் 1949-50-ம் வருஷத்திற்கு 1950-51-ம் வருஷத்தில் நமக்கு 40 லட்சம் டன் உணவு குறைவாக விளைந்திருப்பதாகவும் அவர் யாதாஸ்தில் சொல்லி அதை இந்தப் பஞ்சத் திற்கு ஒரு காரணமாய்கவும் விளக்கி இருக்கிறார். அத்துடன் இந்தப் பஞ்சத் தைப் போக்குவதற்கு வெளி மாகாணங்களிலிருந்தும் உணவுப் பொருள்களை தருவித்திருக்கிறது என்றும் அதற்குள்ள புள்ளிவிவரங்களையும் அவர் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்..

"காலே முதல் இங்கு நடக்கும் விவாதங்களை கவனித்துவரும் போது பெரும்பான்மையான அங்கத்தினர்கள் பேசும் போது கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் வெளியில் போய் பிச்சை கேட்பதை உறக்கக்கேட்கவில்லையென்றும் இன்னும் பல வெளி தேசங்களுக்கு பிச்சைக்குப் போகவில்லை யென்றும், அநேகம் அங்கத்தினர்கள் குறை சொல்லி கொண்டு வந்தார்கள். ஆனால் இவ்வளவிற்கும் மூல காரணம் என்ன? வியாதியை அறிந்து அதை நிவர்த்திப்பது சாத்யமா, இல்லையா? அதை நிவர்த்திக்க ஏதாவது ஒருவித வழியையும் அறிவித்ததாக இல்லை. வியாதியின் கொடுமையை உணராமலிருக்க பிச்சை கேட்கப்போகச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். வியாதியை போக்க உணவு உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்கவேண்டும். உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்யக்கூடிய விவசாயிகளுக்கு வேண்டிய ஊக்கத்தையும், உத்சாகத்தையும் நம் அரசாங்கம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அவ்விதம் செய்வதற்கு வெறும் பிரசாரத்தில் மட்டுமே இப்பொழுது ரூபாய் செலவு செய்யப்படுகிறது. அதனால் உணவு பெருகுவதற்கு ஏதாவது வழி ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறதாவென்று பார்க்கும்போது விளைவு குறைவுகூடத்தானிருக்கிறது என்று புள்ளி விவரம் காட்டுகிறது. அதனால் காலாகாலத்தில் விவசாயிகள் உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்யவேண்டுமென்றிருந்தால் சர்க்கார் செய்யவேண்டிய பல அம்சங்களிருக்கின்றன. அவைகளில் முக்கியமானது இப்பொழுது விவசாயிகளுக்கு அவர்கள் உற்பத்தி செய்யும் நெல்லிற்கு அதிக விலை கொடுத்து அவர்களுக்கு உத்சாகமும்,

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ஊக்கமும் அளித்துக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அவர்களுக்கு உற்பத்தி செய்வதில் உத்சாகம் ஏற்படும்படியும் லாபகரமாக இருக்கும்படியாகவும் செய்வதற்கு அவர்கள் உற்பத்தி செய்யும் பொருள்களுக்கு நிர்ணயித்திருக்கிற விலையில் இன்னும் கூடுதலான விலையைக் கொடுக்கும் பட்சத்தில் ஒருவாறு உற்பத்தியை பெருக்கமுடியும். நெல் விலையை நிர்ணயிப்பதில் உற்பத்தி யாளர்களுக்கு கட்டுபடியாகும்படி நிர்ணயிக்கவேண்டும். முக்கியமாக தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் அங்கே நெல் உற்பத்தியைத் தவிர வேறு ஒன்றும் விளைவு இல்லை. இப்பொழுதுக்கும் நிலை எப்படி இருக்கிறது என்றால் 'உங்கள் வீட்டிற்கு வந்தால் என்ன தருவாய், எங்கள் வீட்டிற்கு வந்தால் என்ன கொண்டு வருவாய்' என்பது போலிருக்கிறது. அதாவது வெளி இடங்களிலிருந்து தானியங்கள் வாங்கினால் அதற்கு அதிக விலை கொடுத்து வாங்குகிறார்கள். தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவின் நெல்லிற்கு அதிக விலை கொடுக்காமல் விலையை control செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் அதே தஞ்சை ஜில்லா விவசாயிகள் மற்ற இடங்களிலிருந்து வாழ்க்கைக்கு வேண்டிய உப்பு, புளி, மிளகாய், பல்லை, வெல்லம், சர்க்கரை, தூணி முதலிய மற்ற பதார்த்தங்களை வாங்கும்பொழுது அவைகளுக்கு அதிக விலை கொடுத்து வாங்கவேண்டியதற்கு இருக்கிறது. மற்ற பதார்த்தங்களின் விலை தலைதெரித்து விற்கப்படுகிறது. அதாவது தஞ்சை ஜில்லா விவசாயிகள் விற்கும் பொருள்களுக்கு விலையை குறைத்து control செய்து விட்டு அவர்கள் வாங்கும் பதார்த்தங்களுக்கு விலையை control செய்யப்படாமலிருக்கிறது. அதனால் விவசாயிகள் தன்னுடைய பொருளை குறைந்த விலைக்கு விற்ப்பதற்கு அதிக விலை கொடுத்துவிட்டு மற்ற பதார்த்தங்களை வாங்கும்படியாக இருக்கிறது. அதனால் மிசாகதாரர்களுக்கு கைக்கும் வாய்க்கும் ஓட்டாமலிருக்கிறது. நெல் விலை குறைவாக விற்ப்பதில் தங்களுடைய நெல்லைக் கொடுத்துவிட்டு மற்றவைகளை வாங்குவதில் மிச்சம் இருந்தது. இப்பொழுது நெல் அதிக விலை விற்ப்பும் கட்டுபடியாக வில்லை. இவ்வித நிலைமையில் அவர்களை உத்சாகமாக உற்பத்தி செய்யுங்கள் என்று சொன்னால் அவர்களிடத்தில் இப்பொழுது பண மில்லை. உண்மையில் பார்க்கும்பொழுது நெல்லின் விலையும் மற்ற பதார்த்தங்களின் விலையைப்போல் உயர்ந்திருக்கும்படி விட்டிருக்க வேண்டும். அவ்விதம் சொன்னால் உணவு பொருள் அத்தயாவசிய பொருளாகச் சே அதன் விலையை உயர்த்தலாமா என்று கூச்சல் போடலாம். அதற்கு உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்யும் விவசாயிகளுக்கு மற்ற பதார்த்தங்களை சப்ளை செய்யும் பொழுது, நெல்லை குறைந்த விலையில் சப்ளை செய்யச் சொல்வதுபோல், மற்ற பதார்த்தங்களையும் அவர்களுக்கு குறைந்த விலையில் சப்ளை செய்யும்படியாக ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். அவ்வித ஏற்பாடு செய்திருந்தால் இப்பொழுது தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்ற கஷ்ட நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டிருக்காது.

"இந்த நிலைமையில் நமக்கு வேண்டிய உணவை வெளி மாகாணத்திலிருந்து கொண்டுவரவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. என்று யாதாஸ்தில் சொல்லி இருக்கிறது. அவ்விதம் வாங்கும்பொழுது ரூ. 26, 29 என்று வாங்குகிறார்கள். ஆனால் தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து வாங்கும்பொழுது ரூ. 11 தான் கொடுத்து வாங்குகிறார்கள். இன்னும் பார்க்கப்போனால் கனம் கோபாலசாமி சொன்னமாதிரி ரூ. 10-8-0 என்று கூடதான் பணமுடை ஏற்பட்டதால் விற்கவேண்டிய நிர்ப்பந்தம் ஏற்படுகிறது. குறைந்த விலைக்கு விற்ப்பும் மற்ற அவசியமான பண்டங்களை அதிக விலைக்கு இவ்விதம் வாங்கும்பொழுது தஞ்சை ஜில்லா விவசாயிகளுடைய வாழ்க்கை தின டாட்டமாகத்தானிருக்கிறது. இன்னும் பார்த்தால் அவர்கள் கடனாக ஊகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் எவ்வளவு நாட்களுக்குத்தான் விவசாயத்தில் கடன் படுவார்கள்! அவ்விதமிருந்தும் உற்பத்தியை அதிகப்படுத்தி லாபம் காண அவர்கள் கால்காலத்தில் உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்துகொண்டு தானிருக்கிறார்கள். கனம் வேதாத்தினம் பிள்ளை அவர்கள் சொன்ன மாதிரி அறுவடை காலங்களில் தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் ஒவ்வொரு ரயிலிலே ஸ்டேஷன்களிலும் லட்சக்கணக்கான மூட்டைகள் அடுக்கி வைக்கப்பட்டிருப்பதை பார்க்கலாம். அங்கெல்லாம் நெல் சும்மா இறைந்துகொண்டும் கெட்டுக்கொண்டும் கிடக்கின்றன. அங்கே பார்த்தால் நெல் விரயமாகிக் கொண்டிருக்கிறது. மற்றொரு இடத்தில் பார்த்தால் உணவு பஞ்சம் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள்.

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சொல்வேன் அவர் நாங்கள் போடும் சப்சலைவிட அதிகமாக போடுவார் என்று. அப்பொழுது அவர்களுக்கு நன்கு தெரியும். இராஜபாளையத்தில் பருத்தி விலை குறைந்துவிட்டது என்று அவர் சத்தம் போட்டதான்தான் பருத்தி விலை உயர் ஆரம்பித்துவிட்டது. இப்பொழுது தஞ்சை ஜில்லா வாசிகள் சத்தம் போடவில்லை. மற்றவர்கள் தான் போடுகிறார்கள். தஞ்சை ஜில்லா நிறைய உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்கிறது. இன்னும் அதிக மாக்கலாம். தஞ்சை ஜில்லா தன்னிடமுள்ள உணவைக்கொடுத்துத் தானாக வேண்டும் கொடுக்காமலிருக்க முடியாது.

“ஆகவே procurement கொடுமைகளை கொஞ்சம் நிவர்த்தி செய்தும் உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்யும் விவசாயிகளுக்கு நெல் விலையை உயர்த்திக் கொடுத்தும் காலா காலத்தில் கடன் கொடுத்தும், எருவையும் காலா காலத்தில் சப்ளை செய்தும் வந்தால் இந்த பஞ்சத்தை வெகு சுலபமாக நிவர்த்தி செய்துகொள்வதற்கு சாத்யமான வழி இருக்கிறது என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு இத்துடன் என்னுடைய பேச்சை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“Madam, Deputy Speaker, I have often pressed on the floor of this House that, unless, the Government are able to have a full-fledged system of controls and rationing throughout the country intended for all people and for all districts, the controls and rationing would have no moral basis and therefore would never succeed. Experiments made during the last four years have shown that, with all the good intentions of the greatest men in this country, the controls could not succeed; they have only increased corruption all round. Therefore, I am of the opinion that the Government should press upon the Central Government, the immediate necessity of removing all these controls. Assuming that controls must continue, I would like to make certain suggestions.”

“Madam, the Economic Adviser to the Government of Madras has published a monograph on ‘Food and Agriculture in Madras State’ in which he says—

‘Even at this low level of output, the entire population could be fed on a ration of 13.12 ounces per diem per adult on the basis of an adult equivalent of 84.08 per cent.’

“Then he continues—

‘If the latter were 66 per cent according to United Nations Organization standards, the ration would even be 16.71 ounces. Yet, in the current year, buffer stocks were depleted to dangerously low levels and in certain regions, informal rural rationing had to cut distribution down ruthlessly.’

According to the United Nations Organization we can take 66 per cent of the people as adults for the purpose of rationing and the people can be given 16.71 ounces. The Adviser further says—

‘Obviously, there has been large-scale evasion by ryots in surrendering their surplus to the procurement agency.’

Madam, I am reading these few lines to show that, even at the lowest level shown by the Government as the output of production in this State, they have to supply us 13.12 to 16.71 ounces of rice. I have often been saying that we have enough rice to give 12 ounces per diem per adult. In 1943-44 we had 50 lakhs of tons of rice production and we had 16 ounces. In 1949-50 when the production according to Government figures, fell to 40 lakhs of tons, surely the Government could give us 12 ounces. But actually we are getting only 6 ounces. Where is the balance of 6 ounces of rice going? What is its cost? That 6 ounces of rice really

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represents about 15 lakhs of tons of rice. Assuming that the cost of one ton of rice is about Rs. 419, the cost of 15 lakhs of tons of rice comes to about Rs. 60 crores (Rs. 419 × 15,00,000 tons) and this amount is being divided by the blackmarketers, a few non-officials and a few officials. That is how these few people are feeding upon the entire population of this State and they form a vested interest in favour of controls.

“As the Hon. Minister said, there are several reasons for this failure of procurement. I do not know whether the words ‘several reasons’ have been put there by the Hon. Minister himself or by the Secretariat. What are those ‘several reasons’ which are responsible for this shortage in procurement? One important reason, Madam, I have no hesitation in saying, is the political pressure. The political pressure of the party in power is greatly responsible for the failure of this procurement. If I believe in controls, I must be in favour of strict procurement and honest procurement. But there is no honest procurement. The political pressure does not enable honest officers to do their work properly. Madam, if you refer to the figures in 1946-47, you will find that the target was fixed at 17 lakhs of tons and actually we procured 16.22 lakhs of tons. If in 1946-47 we could procure 16.22 lakhs of tons when the production was just a little more than 49 lakhs of tons, I cannot understand why our procurement target should be lowered now. But it may not be unknown to the officers and to the Hon. the Minister for Food that in several cases where thousands and thousands of bags of rice are seized by some officer, immediately an order goes either from the Collectorate or more often from the Secretariat at Madras to release the bags. Just a few days ago, I do not think it is more than a week even, we heard of some thousands of bags of rice being released at Vyasarpadi just under the nose of this Government. And the rice that is thus moved about, is all there.

“It is necessary for the Hon. Minister to know what is happening in the name of this procurement and in the name of enforcement of its rules. If only the Hon. the Minister for Food comes along with me without his liveried peon or his personal secretary and other officers and travels with me either by the Calcutta Mail or by any one of the passenger trains that run between Visakhapatnam and East Godavari, I will show what inhuman deeds are being done by the procurement and Police officers in the name of controls. I have never seen such inhuman acts perpetrated on poor and innocent women and men under any civilized form of Government. I have had some contact with public life for over 30 years; I knew days when we as Congressmen were brutally treated for alleged offences against the Government of those days. But, I have never seen poor and innocent men, women and children being batoned or thrown out or bruised or kicked as they are now at those places. I would ask the Hon. Minister to see how these batoned constables and reserve police with fixed bayonets stand on the Pithapuram railway station platform and how many people are being pulled out of the trains or treated with lathi. Notwithstanding all this, the poor people still smuggle. Why do they smuggle? Why do they risk their lives? Why do they risk their

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hubs? Why do they risk a fall from the train running at 20 to 35 miles per hour? The men, women and children of East Godavari and Visakhapatnam alone are not the bad people. Madam, recently, I saw at Korukkupettai and Tiruvottiyar how the women and boys got down when the train was slowing down, and I say the women here are more daring than the women of East Godavari and Visakhapatnam. They were all carrying bags of rice and getting down the slow moving train in a non-chalant manner. Luckily here, there were no baton police or police with fixed bayonets. What I am asking this Government is why should this reserve police act so inhumanly towards the poor and innocent people between Pithapuram and Tuni? What is the use of saying that the people are smuggling and that the Government have to maintain law and order? If they have got to maintain controls in this manner, I say that would be much better if they do not maintain law and order at all. Let us learn a lesson that the controls and rationing are a failure and that it is impossible to manage these things, because we are dealing with a product which is needed by all the people of this State everyday and twice everyday. Therefore, I would ask the Government to give up controls and rationing. If they cannot give them up, let them find out some other method of getting rice.

Here again, the Economic Adviser to the Government of Madras has given us an alternative system of progressive levy which the Government is already following in some of the districts. To some extent it is a better system; it would at least obviate harassment involved in procurement. If, on the other hand, they think they must have procurement or levy or whatever it is, for as long as possible, I would ask them to take certain steps to act as incentives to extra production. There is no point in always harping upon the inability of the Food Minister. May be, you would ask the Hon. the Chief Minister to be the Food Minister, you would ask the Leader of the House to be the Food Minister and you would even ask Sri Pandit Jawaharlal to be the Food Minister, but the person who has the Food Ministry in his charge must have some direct control over the staffs of the Engineering and Agricultural departments. If the Food Minister wants more land to be brought under cultivation, land is in the portfolio of the Revenue Minister; agriculture is in the portfolio of the Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty; if he wants a small quantity of water he has got to go and request the Hon. Sri Sitarama Reddi and if he wants more water to grow a little more food he must go and request the Hon. Sri Bhaktavatsalam; if he wants to whip up his officers he must go and look up to the Hon. the Chief Minister for enforcing discipline or for securing co-ordination among the various officers. What is the use of either the hon. Member the Rajah of Chettinad or Sri Kosalrao or other honourable Friends blaming the Food Minister? I am not holding a brief for this Minister or for this Government, I believe this Government, as Sri A. Kaleswara Rao, an old veteran member of the Congress Party put it, is absolutely callous to the hardships of the people and is absolutely inefficient and weak towards certain persons on account of its becoming a victim of political pressure. While holding no brief for the Food

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Minister, I must still say that there is no use in blaming a particular Minister. The entire Government has failed; the entire Government has lost its grit and it has not got the strength to get as much as we want from the Central Government. It has not got even the sweet tongue to beg properly and get a larger quota. Either the Government must be feared or respected and this Government commands neither fear nor respect at the Centre.

"Apart from this, Madam, I would ask the Government to stabilise prices, i.e., the agriculturist must have some idea of what is the price he is going to get and what he has to pay. In 1946 and 1947 the Government were able to procure more because they offered a little more to the ryot than what an unimaginative Central Government would permit. The Provincial Government had the imagination to offer what they called 'bonus' and gave it and were able to procure more paddy in those days. I would ask this Government to pay a higher price for paddy. In this State the average procurement price is Rs. 11 per maund. In other States it is more. It reaches up to Rs. 16 in U.P., Rs. 17 in Punjab and Rs. 31 in some districts in Bombay; for foreign imports a much higher price is paid. Several Members on the floor of this House have often pressed upon the Government that they may as well give a little higher price to our own ryots and get more paddy from them. But this is not done. The price index of his other necessities has gone up by three hundred and six hundred points, while his earning in paddy is put down at 228. There is absolutely no use in saying that the ryot must make some sacrifice. He must have some incentive. He has no other resources and is entirely dependent on his produce. It is therefore absolutely necessary that better prices must be paid to him and that is why the Economy Adviser to Government of Madras, Dr. B. Natarajan, in his book, Food and Agriculture in Madras State, page 193, says—

"In any case, the ryots are not all to blame. The responses to procurement decrease at a rate much faster than decreases in production and the prolongation of the procurement system has profound effects on the egoism of the peasant millions. It cannot be continued indefinitely without deleterious consequences on the economic and social morale of the country."

I suppose this Government will take the advice of the Economic Adviser. In my opinion, though I do not agree with one or two things, the Economic Adviser has produced a very excellent monograph. He has understood the economic realities and has made several good suggestions. I would ask this Government to follow his advice and increase procurement prices, taking into account the labour put in by the tenant and his family and other expenses which the tenant has to incur, in a more liberal manner."

*SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA:—“கனம் சபாநாயகி அவர்களே, மக்கள் உயிர் வாழுவது உணவில்தான். அந்த உணவு இல்லாவிட்டால் மனிதன் தன்னுடைய பசியைத் தீர்த்துக்கொள்ள முடியாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறான். பசியின் கொடுமை தானாது மக்களில் பலர் இறந்தும் போகிறார்கள். நம்முடைய சர்க்கார் உணவு உற்பத்திக்கான பலவிதமான முயற்சிகளை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள் என்பதற்காக அவர்களைப் பாராட்டுகிறேன். ஏரிகளைக் கட்டுகிறார்கள். அணைகளைக் கட்டுகிறார்கள். கிணறுகள் தோண்டுகிறார்கள். கால்வாய் முதலியவைகளையும் மாற்றத்து செய்து கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். கால்வாய் முதலியவைகளையும் மாற்றத்து செய்து கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். மின்சார சக்தியை கிராமங்களில் பரப்பி விவசாயத்திற்கு வருகிறார்கள். மின்சார சக்தியை கிராமங்களில் பரப்பி விவசாயத்திற்கு

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[Sri P. Natesan] [1st September 1951]

தருகிறார்கள். ஏழை மக்களுக்கு கோதுமை பழக்கமில்லையே. அதைத் தின்றால் அவனுக்கு பேதி வருகிறதே. அவ்விதம் பேதி வந்தால் அவனைக் காப்பாற்ற யார் இருக்கிறார்கள்? ஒருவரும் இல்லை. அரிசி சாப்பிடுவதில் 'நீ' கோதுமை சாப்பிடு, சப்பாத்தி சாப்பிடு' என்று சொன்னால் அவனான் என்ன செய்ய முடியும்? Miss a meal movement என்று சொல்கிறார்கள். முக்கியமாக, குழந்தைகளுக்கு இந்த கோதுமை பலகாரங்கள் ஒத்துக் கொள்வதில்லை. இவ்விதம் கோதுமைகளைச் சாப்பிட்டு விட்டு வியாதியால் படுத்துக் கொண்டால் அவர்களைக் கவனிக்க யாரும் இல்லை. ஏழை வைத்தியத்திற்கு எங்கே போவான்? ஆஸ்பத்திரிக்குப் போனாலும் அங்கே இடம் இல்லை. யென்று விட்டியடிக்கப்படுகிறான். (Interruption.) இதை யெல்லாம் விட்டு விட்டு மதுவிலக்கு கொண்டு வந்து விட்டார்கள்! ஏழை மக்கள் படும பட்டைக் கவனிக்கத் தெரியவில்லை. இவர்களுக்கு இது வினியாடாக இருக்கிறது.

"கனம் செட்டிநாட்டு ராஜ்ய அவர்கள் மந்திரியை 'டிஸ்டிக்டு போக் கள்' என்று சொல்லுகிறார். டிஸ்டிக்டு யார் இவர்களைப் பார்க்கப் போகிறார்கள்? இவர்கள் ஹாஸ்டெலஸ் வைத்துக் கொண்டு போக்கு அல்லவா இந்த மந்திரிகள் அங்கிருப்பவர்கள் பார்க்கப் போகிறார்கள். ஆகையால், இதில் ஒன்றும் பிரயோஜனம் இல்லை. ஜனங்களுக்கு கதி மோகனம் இல்லை. ஏழையின் கஷ்டங்கள் தீருவது இந்தக் காலத்தில் இல்லை. இந்த ஜன்மத்தில் இல்லை என்று கூடச் சொல்லுவேன். இதைச் சொல்லுவதற்காகத்தான் நான் தமிழில் பேசுகின்றேன். (Interruption.)

"நானும் ஒரு காங்கிரஸ்காரன்தான். மதுவிலக்கு இருக்கவேண்டும் என்றுதான் நான் சொல்லுகிறேன். ஆனால், முதலாவதாக மக்களுக்கு வேண்டிய அரிசியை நீங்கள் கொடுக்கவில்லை. கோதுமை சாப்பிடு' என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். கோதுமை அவனுக்கு ஒத்துக் கொள்ளுவதில்லை. அதனால் அவன் சாப்பாட்டுக்கு மிகவும் கஷ்டம் ஏற்படுகிறது. கள்ளைக் குடித்தாவது அவன் நிம்மதியாக இருக்கலாம் என்று அவன் பார்க்கின்றான். கள்ளிலும் வைடமின் இருக்கிறது என்று டாக்டர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். நான் மதுவிலக்கைப் பற்றி இங்கே பேச முன்வரவில்லை. நான் சொல்லுவது என்னவென்றால் மக்கள் உணவுக்குத் தண்டாடுகிறார்கள், அதற்காக நீங்கள் என்ன செய்கிறீர்கள் என்றுதான் கேட்கின்றேன்.

"நமது மாகாணத்திற்கு 10 லட்சம் டன் அரிசி இலவசமாக இருக்கிறது. முதலில் மத்திய அரசாங்கம் 4, 5 லட்சம் டன் தான் உணவுப்பொருள் கொடுப்பதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். அதில் 2 லட்சம் டன் தான் அரிசி, பிடிது, மொத்தமாக 10 லட்சம் டன் தானியம் கொடுப்பதாகச் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள் என்றெல்லாம் சொன்னால் அது யாருக்குப் பிரயோஜனம். மக்கள் இந்தக் கதையை யெல்லாம் கேட்டுக் கொண்டு இருந்தால் அவனுக்கு பசி தீர்ந்து விடுமா என்று நான் கேட்கின்றேன். (பிரதம மந்திரி: 'நான் அரிசி சாப்பிடுவதில்லை'.) நானும் அரிசி சாப்பிடுகிறேன் இல்லை. நாம் இருவரும் தர்ம ராஜாக்கள். நீங்களும் நானும் அரிசி இல்லாமலேயே இருப்போம். நம்மைப் போல் தர்ம ராஜாக்கள் சாப்பிடுவதற்கு எத்தனையோ இருக்கிறது. முதலில் இந்த மந்திரிகளுக்கு அரிசி கொடுப்பதை நிறுத்திவிடவேண்டும். 'Masses', 'poor people' என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டே இந்த மந்திரிகள் நல்ல சாப்பாடு சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள். ஆனால், ஏழைகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும் அரிசியும் நன்றாக இருப்பதில்லை. அந்த அரிசியில் எத்தனை கற்கள்? எத்தனை பூச்சிகள்? எத்தனை நெல்? எத்தனை கரிமண் கட்டிகள்? இன்னும் எத்தனையோ வேண்டாதவைகள் அதில் இருக்கின்றன. மந்திரிகள் இவ்விதமாக பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்க, மக்கள் உணவுக்கு ஏன்றுமில்லாமல் பசி பசி என்று கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அதைத் தீர்க்க ஏற்பாடுகள் ஒன்றும் சரியாகச் செய்யாமல் இருப்பது திருப்திகரமாக இல்லை.

"ஜூலை, ஆகஸ்டு, செப்டம்பர் மாதங்களில் procurement செய்ய முடியவில்லை என்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஒவ்வொரு வருஷமும் தான் procurement செய்ய முடியவில்லை. அப்படி இருக்க எப்போது தான் செய்ய முடியப்படுகிறது என்று கேட்கின்றேன். வறுமை ஆகஸ்டு செப்டம்பர் months procurement கஷ்டமாக இருக்கும். அதற்கு என்ன

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நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறீர்கள்? ஒருவிதமான நடவடிக்கையும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டதாகத் தெரியவில்லையே, இந்த ஸ்டேட்மெண்டிலிருந்து. எத்தனை தடவை என்ன பேசினாலும் இந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டு ஒன்றும் முயற்சி எடுத்துக்கொண்டதாகத் தெரியவில்லை. இந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டு இருந்தாலும் ஒன்றுதான் இல்லாவிட்டாலும் ஒன்றுதான். அதமெண்டு ஒருவித லாபமும் இல்லை. மனிதன் உயிர் வாழ உணவு இல்லை. கூடுதல்த துணி இல்லை. வசிக்க இடம் இல்லை. மக்களுக்கு ஒரு வித நன்மையும் ஏற்படவில்லை. அப்படியிருந்தும் Congress Election-இல் ஏழை மக்களுக்கு எவ்வளவோ நன்மைகள் செய்திருக்கிறோம் என்று இவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இப்படிச் சொல்வதனால் இந்தக் கஷ்டங்களுக்கு ஒருவித விமோசனமும் ஏற்படப்போவதில்லை. இங்கே கோதுமை சாப்பிடு; சோளம் சாப்பிடு' என்று சொல்வதில் பிரயோஜனமில்லை. சாப்பிட முடியாததைச் சாப்பிடச் சொன்னால் அவன் என்ன செய்ய முடியும்? வள்ளிக் கிழங்கு சாப்பிடு என்கிறார்கள், கோதுமையில் பலகாரம் செய்து சாப்பிடு என்கிறார்கள். இப்படியே இவர்கள் சொல்லிக் கொண்டே இருந்தால் அதனால் ஏழை மக்களுக்கு ஒருவிதமான திருப்தியும் ஏற்படப்போவதில்லை என்று நான் பலமாகக் கண்டிக்கிறேன்."

(At this stage Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே! நான் ஸ்ரீ P. நேசன் அவர்கள் தமிழில் பேச ஆரம்பித்த பின்பு மற்றவர்கள் யாரும் வேறு எந்த பாஷையிலும் பேசுவது அவ்வளவு உசிதமாக இருக்காது என்று எண்ணுகிறேன். அதனால் நானும் இப்போது தமிழிலேயே பேச விரும்புகிறேன். அவர்கள் சொன்னார், 'சபையின் முன்பு கனம் உணவு மந்திரி அவர்களால் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் உணவு motion-க்கு எதற்காக காங்கிரஸ் கமிட்டி மெம்பர்களைத் திருத்தங்கள் கொடுக்கிறார்கள்,' என்று, மேலும் 'அந்த காங்கிரஸ் கமிட்டி மெம்பர்கள் தங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய விஷயங்களை கனம் மந்திரியிடமே கேட்டுத் தெரிந்து கொண்டு விடலாமே! இம்மாதிரி அவர்களே திருத்தங்கள் எதற்காகக் கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள் என்றால் தங்கள் பெயர் நான் தினசரிப் பேப்பர்கள் எல்லாவற்றிலும் விளம்பரம் செய்யப்படும் என்ற எண்ணத்தினால் தங்களை விளம்பரம் செய்து கொள்வதற்காகத் தான் இம்மாதிரி கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள் போலிருக்கிறது என்று தனக்குத் தோன்றுவதாகச் சொன்னார். இது மிகவும் கண்டிக்கக்கூடிய விஷயமாகும். சாப்பாடு விஷயம் என்பது காங்கிரஸ்காரர்களுக்கு மட்டுமல்ல; சென்னை மாகாணத்தை ஆட்சி புரிந்து வரும் காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டிற்கு மட்டுமல்ல. மற்ற எதிர்க்கட்சி மெம்பர்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் தான் இது மிகவும் அத்தியாவசியமான விஷயமாகும் என்பதை நான் கூறப்படி படுத்த விரும்புகிறேன். இந்த உணவு விஷயமான motion இப்போது நமக்கு முன் விவாதத்திற்கு வந்திருக்கும் காரணம் என்னவென்று கேட்டால், எதிர் கமிட்டி தலைவர் வந்திருக்கும் காரணம், பல பல இடங்களிலிருந்து வந்திருக்கும் களுக்கும், அங்கத்தினர்களும், பல பல இடங்களிலிருந்து வந்திருக்கும் மெம்பர்களுக்கும் உள்ள நிலைமையை எடுத்துச் சொல்லிவிட்டால் அவர்கள், இந்த நிலைமையைச் சமாளிப்பதற்கு இப்படிச் செய்யுங்கள், அப்படிச் செய்யுங்கள், இவ்வாறு செய்தால் இந்த நிலைமையைச் சமாளித்து விடலாமென்று யோசனை சொல்லுவார்கள் என்பதால்தான். அதைச் செய்ய அவர்கள் மறந்துவிட்டார்கள். இந்த உணவு விஷயத்திற்கு கவர்ன்மெண்டு மிகத்தீவிரம் பொறுப்பானி அல்ல யென்பதை ஸ்ரீ P. நேசன் உணர்ந்து கொள்ளவேண்டும். இந்த விஷயத்தில் கவர்ன்மெண்டிற்கு எவ்வளவு பொறுப்பு உண்டோ அவ்வளவு பொறுப்பும் எதிர்க்கட்சிக்கு உண்டு. எதிர் கமிட்டி அங்கத்தினர்களுக்குமுண்டு. எதிர்க்கட்சி தலைவர்களுக்கும் உண்டு. இங்கேயுள்ள எல்லா மெம்பர்களுக்கும் உண்டு. உணவு உற்பத்திக்கு வேண்டிய எல்லாவற்றையும் சொல்லவேண்டும். உணவு உற்பத்திக்கு வேண்டிய எல்ஷர் சாதனங்களையும் உபயோகப்படுத்த வழி சொல்ல வேண்டும். அவ்வாறு எல்லாம் செய்வதற்கு நாம் எல்லாரும்தான் ஐவாய்தாரியென்று நான் சொல்லப் பிரியப்படுகிறேன்.

"நம் நாட்டில் முக்கியமாக நம் மாகாணத்தின் முக்கியமான உணவு அரிசி தான். இந்த அரிசி விஷயமான நெருக்கடியை எப்படித் தீர்ப்பது

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down to issue 2 oz. for some, 4 oz. for some and 6 oz. for some others. He wanted to divide the people of Nellore town into three categories and said the rest of the rations should be made up of millets or other things. Never in the annals of Nellore was this done and yet the Collector did not think twice before he took this step and brought the Government into disrepute. I am not, as the Hon. the Food Minister thought the other day, giving incorrect figures; I have given him a copy of the circular itself. There has been hostile criticism throughout and all this could have been avoided had the Collector simply seen the rules and stuck to it.

4-15 p.m. "The rule says that such a system should be introduced only in non-ration areas; but this is a ration area. I want to tell the Government that wherever possible, mischief must be avoided. Why not see to it that your subordinates do not make the position worse?

"Let me take another example. There is a rule made by the Food department of the Government of Madras that an agricultural officer can give a permit for whatever quantity an applicant wants. I want to tell the Hon. Minister frankly: 'Save yourself from your friends first. Dismiss or transfer all your subordinates to another department. There is a gentleman, whose name I do not want to mention here, who has been responsible for all the mischief and trouble in this department. To-day he says we must be given only 6 oz. of rice; to-morrow he advises the Government of Madras to distribute 7 oz.; the day after to-morrow he again changes it to 8 oz.; and even before the 8 oz. order is brought into operation, for some reason or other, he goes back to the 6 oz. ration. Why did not the Government have a little more of patience? Is the Food department there simply to issue a statement without knowing the consequences thereof? By issuing such statements you make people angry unnecessarily and when issuing those statements you do not even know your stocks and possible additions. I must therefore tell the Minister: you must remove people who are overaged, people who have served their time. This is not a choultry I suppose for you to feed the people who have served their time. If people have not helped you before they retired, do you mean to say they are going to help you after their retirement? It is the karnam and the village munsif that have been your strongholds and it is they that have been giving you correct statistics up to now. What I want to point out is that this Food department has passed a rule authorising the Agricultural department to issue permits. The Nellore district had to incur a loss of about 4,000 or 5,000 tons of rice on account of an order; the Collector of Nellore seems to have issued a circular saying that nobody should hamper paddy being taken to other districts; but I understand the Food department should take responsibility for all these things. Why should two agencies operate, I ask. What has the Agriculture department got to do with food production, procurement or distribution? Kindly scrap this rule at the earliest possible opportunity.

"Then again, I would ask the Government, for Heaven's sake, not to use the words, at least so long as they are in office, 'open

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market'. If you want to be honest—I know the Hon. Minister wants to be; he is a very frank man—where is the 'open market', I ask. There are only two markets; one is the control market where the poor man can get rice for As. 7-2 in Nellore and the other is the blackmarket. Where is the 'open market'? It is absurd. There is nothing like an 'open market'. The black market is 'open' no doubt. Go to places like Vijayavada, Nellore or Guntur or any other place which is surplus or deficit. You find rice being sold in the open market at 4 annas or 5 annas more or even at double the control price, and anybody can get any quantity, and there is no control either of the quantity or the price. But is that 'open market'? If the Government mean by 'open market' that market, well, God save the Government. Look at this note at page 6, it is stated that 'Foodgrains were available easily in open market in adequate quantities in Bellary, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Cuddapah, Madurai, etc. They are available I agree. They are available not only for our needs, but also to spare for next year; excellent foodgrains of good quality are available, only if you pay twice or thrice the control price. Why should the Government take note of it, why should they indulge in parading it and say 'here is an open market' though the price is higher than the control price. Does it require a Government to say this, I ask. I would therefore press you to take only one market and not think of two markets, and let that one market be the control market.

"One more thing, Madam. At page 5 of the note, it is found that we have a surplus of only 4,632 tons of rice and 165,509 tons and 4,686 tons of wheat and millets respectively. What I suggest is, there is no use compelling the Central Government to give us more rice; they will certainly give us more if they have got it, and they have no special grudge against us. It is clear that the 165,509 tons of wheat that is going to be dumped on us is not going to be eaten by the people, and they cannot be made to eat it, because somehow the Madras people do not take to it. Let these 4,686 tons of millets and these 165,509 tons of wheat be given away to the India Government and let them give us rice in lieu of that, whatever quantity they please. That is one way. I think, in which we can mitigate the suffering of the people of this State."

(At this stage, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

* Mr. W. J. FERNANDEZ :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, rice, more rice and still more rice—that is the all-absorbing problem of the day. That is the question that agitates the mind of millions of people in this State; and that is the question of first magnitude that ought to receive prior consideration at the hands of this Government. Never within living memory have people in this State been reduced to such a sorry plight in a matter of vital concern to them. From 16 oz. to 6 oz. and in some places to 2 oz. of rice, and that under a National Government! One would expect that a National Government would go all-out in their efforts to supply the people with a substantial portion of the staple food they need, but alas, it is not to be. With the dawn of Independence,

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one was led to expect the millennium. What a severe disillusionment after four years of Independence! People cannot understand how a National Government can be so callous to their hardships and sufferings. One of the root causes of this trouble seems to be the failure of this Government to appreciate correctly the extent and gravity of the problem. Witness their unwillingness to agree to a day for debating the food situation. Other works of Government are considered more important. They feel that the food situation has been debated *ad nauseum* and that no useful purpose will be served by a further debate. I think these debates have served a very useful purpose. The strong and unmistakable terms in which this House has condemned the indifference of the Central Government to the dire needs of this State have had the salutary effect of obtaining larger quotas of rice for this State. We should, I think, at every session, begin with a discussion of the food problem, so as to give opportunity to Members who come from the various parts of the State to speak here about the appalling conditions that prevail in their areas and to tell this House what the nature of the food crisis in this State is, so that the Union Government may be made to know that things are in a very bad way here and that unless they come to the rescue of this Government, something very serious and drastic will happen here and that there may be much loss of lives through want of sufficient supply of food. Therefore, Sir, I feel that our efforts should be directed in the first place towards convincing our Government of the gravity of the food problem; and if we succeed, then they will put up a stronger case, based on such conviction, about the gravity of the situation here, and incidentally they may succeed in getting more and more out of the Central Government. I would therefore impress upon the Government the need for giving this problem their very careful and serious consideration. Empty stomachs know no respect for law or order and you cannot go on playing on the fact that the people of this State are law-abiding citizens and they will keep quiet for ever. Remember that this is the most fertile ground for the Communists; that this is the best opportunity for them to exploit the situation. They will incite the law-abiding citizens to violate the laws and thus spoil the good name which this State has always had. I therefore very seriously say to the Government; give this matter your very serious consideration, do not brush aside lightly the views expressed by Members in this House, who are the representatives of the masses outside. Do not think they are all gross exaggerations. Please benefit and profit by their experience and give this problem your very serious consideration. You will then find that the food problem is solved, that the situation improves and that the people are more satisfied and contented."

* THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"Sir, we have just heard many hon. Members dealing with the food situation and the statement about the food situation which was placed on the table of the House. Some hon. Members were of opinion that the statement did not serve any purpose, that it did not give any information and there was no use in having prepared and placed

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that statement before the House. Sir, when similar food debates were held in this House previously, it was customary to prepare some statement on the basis of which the discussion could take place. It is only in accordance with that practice that this statement has been prepared and placed on the table. It is true that it gives some facts and figures relating only to the period that has elapsed after the last debate in this House. Two or three points I have already mentioned when I asked for leave for starting this debate. Most of the remarks made during the last debate were concerning the very inadequate supplies of foodgrains which the Central Government were willing to give to this State in spite of the fact that this Government were asking for more. Our requirements were 10 lakhs of tons. The general complaint at that time, i.e., in February last, was that the Government at the Centre were not paying heed to the representations not only of this Government but also to the representations made by this House and by the people of the State, that we must have at least 10 lakhs of tons of foodgrains, in order to get over our present difficulties.

"After all, we were able to get it not merely by sitting here in Madras and doing nothing, but by dint of constant representation and by pressing upon the Centre our requirements. It required some little courage and also some little activity on the part of the Government of Madras to have got this 10 lakhs of tons of foodgrains. But, as I said, Sir, the only disappointment was that out of this 10 lakhs of tons, the Government of India was not able to increase the rice quota to anything more than two lakhs of tons, which was agreed to even before the ten lakhs of tons was granted. That has been engaging the attention of this Government ever since the time we were told that nothing more than 2 lakhs of tons of rice would be available for this State. And, instead of merely accepting that reply we were constantly pressing on the Government of India the great necessity to provide more rice to this State, which is the largest rice-eating State, probably in the whole of the Union. That is why we were almost shocked when the order came to this Government a week ago that instead of 30,000 tons of rice which was agreed to be sent to this State every month, the Government of India said that owing to unexpected difficulties with regard to transport, shipping and so on, they will not be able to supply us the 30,000 tons, but that they will be able to give only 20,000 tons a month. This came to us as a shock, because even with the 30,000 tons of rice it will be difficult to keep the present rate of reduced rationing going and it would be still more difficult if it were further reduced to 20,000 tons a month. At a time when this State is passing through the leanest months during the year, we were very much perturbed about this order of the Government of India. But, fortunately, just before this House assembled to-day, we had another revised order that it has again been raised to 30,000 tons of rice and that this allotment of 30,000 tons of rice will be sent to this State from two or three different quarters. Not only that, but some little help also has been promised if some other States which were approached were able to spare foodgrains to the Government of India. If that arrangement

4-30 p.m.

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materialises, they have also stated that whatever quantity is available, it will be sent to us. We must not also forget the fact that Madras is not the only rice-eating State, but there is also the neighbouring State or Travancore-Cochin. Though it is a small State, its population is predominantly rice-eating. Therefore, representation is made, not only by the Madras Government but also by other rice-eating States like Travancore-Cachin, West Bengal and others. So, our representation to the Central Government has not been entirely fruitless. But, that will not make this Government merely sit quiet and as I have already said, we are always constantly in touch with the Government of India to see that our requirement, especially in rice, is properly met and sent to us in time.

(At this stage Temporary Chairman Sri K. T. Kosalram occupied the Chair.)

"Then, Sir, with regard to the several suggestions made which were always repeated in this House even before—that rice is still available in Burma and that we have only to send a deputation and ask the merchants there and get any quantity, I might remind hon. Members that ever since this point was raised in this House, there was a delegation led by the Union Food Minister to Burma and before he went on deputation he consulted two of our Members from Madras, one Mr. Ramanatham Chettiyar and another Mr. Majid. They were asked to go to Bombay to meet Mr. Munshi. Of course, he could not take non-officials with him, because it was a matter of delegation from one Government to another and also the transaction was taking place between the two Governments. So, he said that no non-official Member was required, because it was purely an official delegation which went. And, what was the result of this delegation? They made some arrangement for buying some rice, which was all that was available and even that arrangement was neither completed nor executed, because after their visit, it was said, that Burma was again having some difficulties with regard to the supply of the full quota which they agreed to supply to the Government of India. Therefore, to say again that Burma has got rice to supply is merely repeating the same old story. But, whether it is correct or not, it is difficult to say. I may even quote the correspondence that passed between the Hon. Member, Mr. Muthiah Chettiyar and one of the Members in the Central Government regarding the import of Burma rice, which finally proved to be that there was no truth in that statement. At the same time, how far it is true, I do not know. But, if it is true, it is a matter which they could bring to the attention of the Government of India. But as far as this Government is concerned, we are convinced that it is all that could be done by the Government of India at the moment."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I point out, Sir, that there is no quorum?"

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Sri K. T. Kosalram):—"There is quorum."

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* THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"Then, Sir, it was said that I have not been indicating properly the policy that is followed. Hon. Members of this House might remember that last time when the policy of derationing was discussed, it was given a general approval by this House and we have been following that for the last six or eight months now and with regard to its success or failure, some Members, as we have also heard, have expressed satisfaction at the working of the deration policy in rural areas. Some of course have doubted its usefulness and some others have condemned it outright. But, Government are still watching what is going on and also trying derationing in areas as much as possible, as is evidenced by the fact that hundreds of fair price shops have been opened ever since deration was introduced. Not only that, wherever people were not able to buy owing to want of money or they are unable to get some work, the Government have been encouraging the opening of gruel centres and are also giving all sorts of help, as has been explained in the statement placed on the table of the House. The fact that we have been obliged to open or help in opening the gruel centres, does not mean that the position is deteriorating, but on the contrary it is only to see that the hardship in some areas which the people are experiencing, diminishes as much as possible. For example, in certain areas, immediately after a good shower of rain we find that people are able to get some work, and naturally the demand for gruel centres is much less in those areas than in other places. And where there is absolutely no rain or work for the people, naturally they have to resort to these gruel centres. I am glad to say that the very good lead taken by Coimbatore in this respect is being followed by other districts also and Government are trying to give them as much help as possible for these gruel centres. Not only that, the Government have been able to get during this period, free gifts not only from some organizations, but also from private individuals who have been able to send several packets to the Food Minister for distribution to people. Though those packets could not be broadcast like wheat or other consignments which the missionary organizations are getting for free distribution, still that shows the good-will of the people. I might also say that some of the gifts coming into our hands, will be very much appreciated when they arrive and are distributed."

"With regard to forwarding the proceedings of this Legislature to the Central Government, I think, it has been done in the past, so that the opinion of this House is brought to the notice of the Central Government as early as possible. That is all merely a matter of routine. But, all the same, some people have been doubting whether that is being done or not. I merely repeat that it has been done on previous occasions and it will be done at the present moment. And, with regard to the examination of the various suggestions made by hon. Members, it will also be done as expeditiously as possible, because the time devoted for the food debate will not serve its purpose unless the suggestions made by hon. Members are examined and wherever possible their suggestions

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will be taken into consideration, not only to correct or rectify whatever defects that may be found, but also for drawing up our policy for the coming year.

"Then, Sir, some hon. Members have made a general remark that Government come forward suddenly with some statements now and then and that they frighten people and create uneasiness in the minds of people. Probably they think that we have reduced the ration from 8 oz. to 6 oz. without making an announcement. I do not think any hon. Member seriously said that, because without making an announcement of what we are going to do it is not possible to do certain things overnight, for so much of arrangement has to be made before making any change in the scale of ration and so naturally at least a week's notice is necessary to do that. I do not think this kind of announcement or statement to make the position known to the people is wrong in any way. Probably it must have created some sort of impression among those people who are keeping a good stock of foodgrains, to hold fast to that stock for ever and not to part with them. That may be creating a bad effect upon the open market. Some hon. Members said that open market is a wrong term to be used and advised me to avoid using it. By open markets we mean only markets in the derationed areas, because in those areas, we have stopped all procurement but we are still maintaining what are known as fair price shops and when we stop procurement, people who produce take it only to the open market and whether it is sold in the bazaar, or in pavements or from their houses, it is all open market.

4-45 p.m. "If that word was applied to transactions in the derationed areas, I do not think there is any difficulty. But if it is applied to the surplus districts, it might mean a different thing because there procurement is going on and if the people manage to hide some grain and not give it to the procurement staff but sell it in the market, it is blackmarketing. If they do not want to give the grains to the regular procurement staff according to the system in force in the surplus districts and if they try to deceive or cheat the Government, what goes out of their stock goes into the black-market.

"Mention has been made by the hon. Member who is now occupying the Chair (Sri K. T. Kosalam) regarding the price of gram. This Government have impressed upon the Government of India that it is not fair to keep to a price which is not workable. There is free movement with respect to gram but prices are controlled. In spite of our representations, the Government of India are still maintaining a price which the merchants consider uneconomical but still, Sir, with their eyes open, they buy at higher price and try to dispose of them at the higher price and if the Government agents come down upon them, there is a cry that the Government are trying to harass them. In spite of it, the Government are prepared to support the contention that the prices fixed are not sufficient and that they should be raised and brought to a level with the prices ruling in the country at present; practical prices must be applied rather than theoretical prices. May I also

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suggest, Sir, that it is open to the Merchants' Association to run up to Delhi and represent matters to the Government of India because this Government have done their best in the matter.

"With regard to the suggestions made for the exchange of wheat for rice from other States, that is also engaging the attention of the Government and you may have read in the papers that the Central Government have no objection provided we are able to find a State which will be able to take wheat and give us rice. As far as I can see, other States also are short of rice and so, they also want all the available rice with them. If there is any offer coming out of the States, we shall be only too glad to avail ourselves of it.

"Hon. Members dealt with the question of increasing the price of rice. The complaint was that we were not paying the proper price for rice producers with the result that we are unable to produce sufficient quantities, that it was not equitable that we should pay less to our own producers but pay more for our imports. Let me assure the House, Sir, that the whole thing is in the hands of the Government of India. The general complaint is that we are obliged to pay more and more to other countries and other State Governments because we are so much in need of grains and there is no other go than to pay higher prices. With regard to our own price, it is not very low; but compared to prices ruling for other commercial products, our producers feel that the price paid for their rice is very low but taken apart by itself, it is considered that price after all is not very low. But what is required, as pointed out by hon. Members, is that the producer should be given facilities for more production and also for reducing the cost of production. That will naturally engage the attention of the Government and I am sure that by giving more facilities and not creating difficulties for the producers, it is possible to induce them to produce more at a lower cost. This year the Government of India agreed to import more and meet the present position but every year, it is not possible for the Government to ask for more and more quantities of rice from outside as, as years go by, unless we pay more attention to our own production by intensive cultivation, there will be a very difficult position facing us. It will be difficult to be depending on outside supplies year after year. As was pointed out by some hon. Members, there are difficulties even in surplus districts as is evidenced by the opening of fair price shops even in surplus districts. I would advise Friends from the deficit districts to realize that it is not all rosy and happy even in the surplus districts. There have been heavy floods in the Godavari; we have taken a lot of their rice for our deficit areas and they will have to be facing some difficulty now. They have been doing a very great service to the State but by doing it, they have been put to all sorts of difficulties and my Friend from Nellore was saying that there was some difficulty there though that district is supposed to produce one of the best varieties of rice.

"The suggestion has been made by hon. Members that besides relying upon rice for our staple food, we should not forget that there are other things which will keep our bodies in a healthy

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condition. I am surprised that nobody during the course of the debate made any mention about fish. I would very much recommend, not because I am in charge of Fisheries, even if you take the opinion of nutrition experts, they will tell you the same thing—that fish has a high dietary value and we are, therefore, making it possible for more and more fish being available to the people at reasonable rates.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

"The Government have been able to sanction many useful schemes and they are gradually yielding results. Some may say that they are not getting fish as cheaply as they would want to but it is gradually getting cheaper and in course of time, it may even be a problem to dispose of the fish which may be coming into the market unless more and more people take to it. (An hon. Member: You do not want to compel people to take it.) No, the fish available now is not sufficient for fish-eaters.

"Regarding controls or the removal of controls, it is a big question, as I remarked in the beginning and it is not for this Government to say anything for or against it except the fact that as long as there is a shortage of food in the country or in the State, some sort of control is necessary and it means some sort of restriction upon ourselves and some little difficulty is bound to go along with it. But the Government are always very careful not to create unnecessary hardship or difficulty for the people and any complaints brought to the notice of the Government have been looked into and I may assure the House that whatever remarks are made in the House will be taken note of and defects rectified as far as possible. I have been trying to explain during the course of my answer to the debate the points raised in this House and I may assure hon. Members who have made so many suggestions that they will be taken into consideration and we shall try to meet the situation as best as we can.

"One thing I wish to tell the House is that since we have had our last food debate, things have not stood still as some hon. Members wanted to say. We have been progressing in some directions, though the progress has not been to the satisfaction of everybody, at any rate not to the full satisfaction of the Government themselves. But the fact that we have got what we wanted, namely, 10 lakhs of tons is one thing which cannot be denied; the second point is that in the derationed areas, we wanted to open fair price shops and we have opened several hundreds of them and many gruel depots have been opened and ever since the last debate we have had so many gift parcels and so many yet are coming in and the situation is not so desperate and so bad or dark as hon. Members would like to paint. I request hon. Members to keep these things in mind and give their co-operation to the Government and I request that the amendments may be withdrawn and the debate closed."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to know whether the hon. Member Sri Natesa Chettiyar is withdrawing his motion."

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SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"This debate, Sir, happens more or less to be a courtesy debate and so, I must also be very courteous and so, I withdraw the motion."

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

* SRI P. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"Sir, இந்திய சர்க்காரிடம் முறையிடுவதிலும் அதிக விசை கொடுத்து வெளியிடங்களிலிருந்து அரிசி வரவழைப்பதற்கு பதிலாக இங்கேயே உணவு உற்பத்திக்கு அதிக உத்சாகம் சர்க்கார் கொடுப்பார்கள் என்ற நம்பிக்கையுடனும் என்னுடைய திருத்தத்தை வாயில் வாங்கிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is—

'That the Food situation in the State be taken into consideration.'

The motion was carried.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"There is no definite proposition before the House. The motion is only to the effect that the food situation be taken into consideration. What happens, Sir, if, on being put to vote, it is negatived?

"If it is negatived, will it not mean that we need not take the food situation into consideration? The Hon. Minister wanted the food situation to be taken into consideration, and if at the end of the discussion, the motion is negatived"

MR. SPEAKER:—"That means the House has no confidence in the Statement and in the Government. That is what it comes to."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"A no-confidence motion must come up as a definite proposition."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is something like a censure on the Government."

"I adjourn the House to 11 a.m. on Monday, the 3rd September 1951."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 3rd September 1951.

GOVERNMENT MOTION re FOOD SITUATION IN THE STATE

[Sri A. S. Sahajananda] [1st September 1951]

உதவும்படி செய்கிறார்கள். அரசாங்கத்தில் இவ்விதமாக எவ்வளவோ அரிய காரியங்களைச் செய்கின்றார்கள். அவர்கள் ஒன்றும் செய்ய வில்லை என்று சொல்ல முடியாது. எத்தனை ஏரிகள் செப்பனிட்டாலும், எத்தனை குளங்கள், கிணறுகள், வெட்டினாலும் தண்ணீர் வருவது ஆண்டவன் அருளில்தான் இருக்கிறது—

‘உளவாம் உயிர் உணவால் உணவு உயர்மாரியினுளவாம் வள வான் மழை உயர்வானவர் மகிழ்வால் வரும், மகிழ்வுமீ.’

‘வானவரை நோக்கி அவரவர்கள் செய்கின்ற கர்மானைப் பொறுத்தும் அவரவர்கள் முயற்சியைப் பொறுத்தும் வானவர் மகிழ்வார், அவர் அருளால் தான் மழை பெய்யும், என்று பகவான் கீதையில் சொல்லி யிருக்கின்றார். உபநிடதமும் அவ்வாறு சொல்லுகின்றது. தெய்வப் புலமைத் திருவள்ளுவரும் ‘கடவுள் வாழ்த்து’க்கு அடுத்தபடியாக ‘வான் சிறப்பு’ என்ற அதிகாரத்தைத் திருக்குறளில் வைத்திருக்கிறார். மழை பெய்வதற்கு ஆண்டவன் அருள் வேண்டும். ஆதலால், ஆண்டவ னிடத்தில் நாம் பிரார்த்தனை பண்ணுகிறோம். எந்த ஒரு காரியத்தைத் தொடங்கினபோதிலும் முதன் முதலில், ஆண்டவனுக்கு வணக்கம் செலுத்தி ஒரு பாட்டுப்பாடுவது என்பது நம் நாட்டு வழக்கம். காங்கிரஸ் பதவிக்கு வந்த பிறகு அவ்விதம் இந்த சபையில் நடந்துவந்தது. அந்தப் பழக்கமும் இப்பொழுது இந்த இடத்தில் நடப்பது கிடையாது. ஆகையால் மழை பெய்வதற்கு வழியில்லாமல் இருக்கிறது.

‘பிரிட்டிஷ் சர்க்கார் இருந்த காலத்தில் உணவுக் கஷ்டம் வந்த காலத் தில் எந்த அண்டை நாடுகளில் தானியம் இருந்தாலும் அதைக் கொண்டு வந்து உணவுப் பஞ்சத்தை நிவர்த்தி செய்து வந்தார்கள். ஆனால், இப் பொழுது நம்முடைய சுயராஜ்ய கவர்ன்மெண்டு வந்த பிறகு உயிர்களுக் கும் உணவு இல்லாமல் கஷ்டப்பட நேரிடுகிறது. இதற்கு மந்திரிகளைத் திட்டவதில் பிரயோஜனமில்லை. இந்த அரசாங்கம் தீவிரமான முயற்சி எடுத்து வெளிநாட்டிலிருந்து அரிசி வரும்படி செய்தால் இந்தக் கஷ்டம் நீங்கும். உணவு விளைந்த காலத்திலும், பர்மா அரிசி வந்துகொண்டு தான் இருந்தது. அதேமாதிரி இப்பொழுதும் பர்மா, ஸயாம் முதலிய இடங்களிலிருந்து அரிசியை வரவழைத்தால் தான் ஏழை மக்களுக்கு விமோசனம் ஏற்படும்.

‘பணக்காரர்கள் எப்படியும் பிழைத்துக்கொள்ளுவார்கள். மத்திய தர வகுப்பாரும் எப்படியோ அரசாங்கத்தாருடைய தயவைக்கொண்டு ரேஷன் கடைகளில் வாங்கிக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். ஆனால், ஏழை ஹரி ஜனன் பாடுதான் மிகவும் திண்டாட்டமாக இருக்கிறது. அவர்களுடைய நிலைமையை பார்த்தால் மிகவும் பரிதாபகரமாக இருக்கிறது. அவர்கள் எல்லாப் பதிலுமாக இருக்கிறார்கள். உண்ண உணவில்லாமல், உடுக்க உடையில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். ஏழை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு குடியானவ வர்களுக்கும் உணவு கிடைக்கும்படியான உதவியை சர்க்கார் செய்ய வேண்டும். அதற்காக எங்கிருந்தாவது தானியத்தை வாங்கிவந்தால் தான் ஆகவேண்டும்.

‘அரிசியைத் தவிர வேறு எதையும் சிதம்பர தாலுகாவிலுள்ள ஏழை ஹரிஜனங்கள் அரியமாட்டார்கள். கிராமங்களில் விளைகின்ற நெல்லை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு அங்கு கம்பு, சோளம், கோதுமை என்று அனுப்பி வைத்தால் அவர்களுக்கு சாப்பிடுவதற்கு பிரியமில்லாமல் இருக்கிறது. சர்க்கார் நெல் வரங்கும் காலத்தில், முந்தின வருஷம் ஒரு நிலத்தில் எவ்வளவு விளைந்ததோ அதே மாதிரி இந்த வருஷம் நிலத்தில் விளைந் தாலும் விளையாவிட்டாலும், கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று நிர்வாகத்திற்குத் தரவில்லை. இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்கள், தாலுகா ஸப்ளை ஆபீசர்கள் வற்புறுத்தி வாங்கி, அதை எடுத்துக் கொண்டு போய்விடுகிறார்கள். ஆனால், அரசாங்கத்திற்கு மூட்டை ரூ. 11 என்று விவசாயிகள் போட்டுவிட்டு பிறகு ஏழை மக்கள் வாங்கப்போனால் மூட்டை ஒன்றுக்கு ரூ. 35 என்று அவர்கள் கொடுக்க வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. கிராமங்களில் ஹரிஜன குழை மக்கள் உண்ண தானியம் வாங்கமுடியாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இந்த நிலையில் ஹரிஜன மக்கள் மேலுக்கு வர வழியில்லாமல் இருக்கிறது.

GOVERNMENT MOTION re FOOD SITUATION IN THE STATE

1st September 1951] [Sri A. S. Sahajananda]

‘சர்க்கார் நெல் விலையைக் குறைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். உழைப்பவர்களின் கூலி, ஏர் ஒன்றுக்கு ரூ. 3-0-0, ரூ. 2-8-0 என்று இருக்கிறது. ஆண் கூலிக்காரன் சாப்பாடு போட்டு ரூ. 1-8-0 கேட்கிறான். இந்தவிதமாக கூலி கொடுத்து பயிரிடுவதாயிருந்தால், அந்தப் பயிரிட்ட நெல்லும் மழை இல்லாமல் காய்ந்து விடுகிறது. பயிரிட்டவர்கள் நிலைமையிலும் எவ்வளவோ கஷ்டங்களுக்குள்ளே.

‘குடியானவர்கள் இவ்வளவு கஷ்டப்படும்தோது அவர்கள் தலையில் வரி களை வைத்து இன்னும் மேன்மேலும் சுரண்ட சர்க்கார் நினைக்கிறார்கள். உணவுப் பொருளைப் பெருக்க உழைக்கும் தொழிலாளருக்கும், நிலம் வைத்துக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கும் அதிகக் கூலியும் அதிக விலையும் கொடுக்க வேண்டியது மிக மிக அவசியம்.

‘நிலம் வைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும் குடியானவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறா கள், ‘கூலி தானியமாகக் கிடைத்தது. இப்பொழுது பணமாகக் கொடுக் கிறார்கள்.’ அந்தப் பணத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு என்ன செய்வான். 3, 4 நாட்கள் உணவுப் பொருள் கிடைக்காமல் தவிக்கிறார்கள். இந்த நிலை கிராமங்களில் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இதற்காக அகலிலைக் கடைகள் ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். இந்த கடைகளிலும் செல்வாக்கு இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். இந்த கடைகளிலும் செல்வாக்கு இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு கிடைக்கவில்லை. ஆகையால் சர்க்க கிடைக்கிறதே தவிர ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குக் கிடைக்கவில்லை. உணவுப் பொருள்கள் கிடைக்கவேண்டு கார் ஏழை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு உணவுப் பொருள்கள் கிடைக்கவேண்டு மென்ற நோக்கத்தைக் கொண்டு வேலை செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொண்டு என்னுடைய பேச்சை முடித்துக்கொள்கின்றேன்.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“Madam, Deputy Speaker, I would like to confine my attention to certain departmental irregularities in the hope that they will be rectified and some relief given. It is not good at this stage to attack controls as they have come to stay. Controls by themselves are not very undesirable because they work very well in foreign countries and no country can be expected to be self-sufficient in all matters, particularly as regards food. When India had been dependent all these years on other countries it is moonshine for us now to think that we can get on without them. Whereas we take it for granted that we should get on with controls for some time the question is, how best to manage the distributive system? My belief is that controls have become more unpopular on account of the defects in the distributive arrangements made by the Government. My view is that the subordinate staff of the entire Food department are responsible for the mismanagement of the whole affair. I will give you an instance from my own district to show how the Government has been brought into disrepute by the utter negligence, if not callous indifference of the officialdom there. I do not mean to say it was intentional because they know the consequences that will be visited upon them if the Government knew that there has been some mischief. But for some reason or other which could not be explained, the subordinate staff do not seem to have understood the noble purpose either of controls or of the Government's intentions. Nellore is a surplus district and has been so for the last five years. Never did we beg for food from other districts nor did we complain that we did not have enough food. On the other hand, whereas in other places people were getting 8 oz., we were getting 10 oz., and when others were getting 6 oz. we were getting 8 oz. But this year, even before transplantation has commenced, we have been reduced from a surplus district to a deficit district. The Collector has issued a circular to all the relief shops in Nellore

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that it is not possible for them to comply with this request owing to several difficulties encountered in getting rice from internal and external sources.

The position regarding the actual allotments and arrivals as on 18th August 1951 is as follows :—

Name of foodgrains.	Import quota so far allotted against ceiling quota of 10 lakhs.	Quantity moved up to 18th August 1951.	Balance.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.
Rice	108,256	69,857	38,399
Wheat and wheat products.	162,505	162,505	..
Other grains .. .	252,744	236,844	15,900
Total ..	523,505	469,206	54,299

It will be noticed that up to the middle of this month, only 4.7 lakhs tons, i.e., about one half of the total ceiling quota of 10 lakhs of tons has been received leaving the balance of 5.3 lakhs to be received in the remaining 4½ months. The quantities of the different foodgrains remaining to be received are approximately :—

	TONS.
Rice	130,000
Wheat	280,000
Millets	120,000
Total ..	530,000

For the month of September the Government of India have allotted the following quantities :—

	TONS.
Rice	30,000
Wheat	25,000
Milo	30,500
Total..	85,500

4. *Procurement.*—Intensive procurement is being carried on in the deltaic areas of the six surplus districts and in the two heavily deficit districts of Malabar and the Nilgiris. Levy procurement is being continued in the entire South Kanara district and in the deltaic areas of the Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, South Arcot and Srikakulam districts.

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The total target fixed for procurement for 1951 under the Intensive Procurement and Levy Procurement Schemes and the quantities procured from 1st January to 18th August 1951 are shown below :—

Target for 1951 (in tons)		Procurement from 1st January to 18th August 1951 (in tons).		Percentage of procurement to target.	
Rice.	Millets.	Rice.	Millets.	Rice.	Millets.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1,054,140	1,530	678,591	3,109	64	..

It is anticipated that only 80 per cent of the target for rice, that is, only 8.43 lakhs of tons can be procured. Procurement in some of the cirar districts except Guntur and Nellore districts has not been quite satisfactory, for several reasons, as the following figures will show :—

District.	Target.	Quantity procured up to 18th August 1951.	Percentage to target.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	TONS.	TONS.	
East Godavari ..	100,000	51,990	52
West Godavari ..	200,000	109,963	55
Krishna ..	188,000	116,849	62

The recent floods in the cirars is bound to make procurement more difficult. All told, it will be safe to assume that the procurement of rice for the year 1951 will be only 80 per cent of the target, i.e., 8.4 lakhs of tons.

5. *Rationing and scale of rations.*—Consequent on the increase of the ceiling import quota of foodgrains allotted to this State for 1951 from 5 lakhs tons to 10 lakhs tons due to the materialization of the American Aid, the Madras Government, in June last, restored the cut of 25 per cent in the overall ration of 12 ounces and at the same time ordered the issue of 2 ounces of rice per adult per day from the fair price shops in the derationed deficit districts, where no rice was being given previously. But the procurement of rice out of the main paddy crop in the surplus districts in the State was almost over and the quantity of rice that could be procured in the next few months, till the harvest of the short-term crops in October next, would not be appreciable. Besides, as stated above, there was no prospect of getting anything more than 2 lakh tons of rice out of the import quota allotted by the Government of India. In view of all these considerations and in view of the fact that the rice stocks in the State were dwindling, the Government decided that it was necessary to reduce the rice content of the ration from 8 to 6 ounces for rice eaters in the statutorily rationed areas, rationed rural areas and in respect of essential services in the derationed areas and from 8 to 4 ounces for cardholders in the upland areas in the surplus districts, with effect from 12th August 1951.

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the Collectors' reports for the week ending 28th July 1951, the food position was as follows :—

(i) *Availability of foodgrains.*—Foodgrains were available easily in open market in adequate quantities in Bellary, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Cuddapah, Mathurai, Salem, South Arcot, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli districts. In Chittoor, Kurnool, Ramanathapuram, South Kanara and Srikakulam districts, foodgrains were available in open market only in limited quantities while it is reported that there was no free flow of foodgrains in the open markets in Anantapur, North Arcot and Visakhapatnam districts.

(ii) *Trend of prices.*—Generally, the open market prices are higher than the controlled prices in all districts, but were reported to be steady. Only in a few centres in Bellary, Chittoor, South Arcot, South Kanara, Srikakulam and Tiruchirappalli districts, slight increase in the price of rice was reported while there was decrease in the price of rice and millets in some centres in Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli districts.

10. *Imported dates.*—About 1,000 tons of dates have been supplied by the Government of India for distribution in the deficit districts at Rs. 11-8-0 per imperial maund. They have agreed to give a subsidy of Rs. 1½ lakhs to meet the loss in the distribution of these dates and have instructed that one-half of the quantity may be sold and the other half distributed free. The Government have allotted the dates to districts as noted below and have directed Collectors to distribute one-half of the quantity free to the deserving poor and to sell the remaining half at Rs. 0-2-3 per lb.

District.	Quantity supplied (in tons).
(1)	(2)
Coimbatore	500
North Arcot	100
Salem	180
Ramanathapuram .. .	100
Tirunelveli	120
Total —	1,000

11. *Kanji thotties.*—Gruel centres have been opened as shown below to distribute kanjee free to the poor with the help of funds

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provided by philanthropic people and also out of the Prime Ministers' relief fund and the free gifts of foodgrains received by the Government :—

District.	Number of centres.
(1)	(2)
Visakhapatnam	7
Nellore	3
Coimbatore	10
Salem	7
North Arcot	29
Tirunelveli	3
Chittoor	12
Chingleput*	
Ramanathapuram*	
Total	80

12. *Food gifts to Madras State.*—(1) In response to the appeal made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister for India for voluntary effort and co-operation to tide over the present food crisis in India, following gifts of foodgrains have so far been received by the Madras Government :—

- (1) Twenty-five bags of rice from crew of 's.s. Jalamatsya'.
- (2) Fifty maunds of foodgrains from the District Socialist Party, Hardoi district, U.P.
- (3) Twenty bags of rice from Sindhi Youths of Singapore.
- (4) Seventy-three tons of rice and 73 tons of wheat from Defence Services.
- (5) Eight tons of rice from Siamese labourers in Rubber Estates, etc.

The food gifts in items (1) to (4) above have been allotted to Coimbatore district for distribution through " Kanji thotties and charitable institutions " to the poor and needy. Item (5) above has been allotted to the Chittoor district for distribution to the poor through gruel centres opened in the district.

(2) The co-operative for American Remittances to Europe has delivered 98 care food packages to this Government so far, for distribution among the poor and needy in the Madras State. These packages have been donated by American citizens and each contains 10 lb. of rice, 5 lb. of sugar, 5 lb. of flour, 3 lb. of milk-powder, etc. These food packages have been or are being, distributed to poor and needy in Madras City as well as in the scarcity affected districts of this State.

* Collectors have proposed to open gruel centres in the immediate future.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 71 asked by Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 1st September 1951, pages 573-574 supra.]

Statement showing the particulars of free gifts of house-sites by the mirasidars in Tanjore district.

Name of mirasdar.	Taluk.	Village.	Extent of land given as free g/a.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
			ACS.
Sri R. Madhava Rao, Kolladi ..	Tanjore ..	Kolladi ..	4.62
Sri K. Sivaswami Ayyar, Thoppu-vattaram.	Sirkali ..	Agaravattaram ..	0.60
Sri S. A. Ramanathan Chettiar, Karamandi ..	Do. ..	Agani ..	1.86
Sri K. S. Ramesam Ayyar, Kunnam.	Do. ..	Alangadu ..	4.49
Sri K. S. Ramesam Ayyar, Kunnam.	Do. ..	Alangadu ..	4.49
Sri Rajagopal Nayudu, Vadagacheri.	Nagapattinam ..	Vadagacheri ..	1.50
Sri Ramachandra Nayudu, Palakurichi.	Do. ..	Palakurichi ..	1.50
Sri Gopalakrishna Nayudu, Anakkudi.	Do. ..	Anakkudi ..	0.00
Sri Rangarathu Nayudu, Mungilgudi.	Do. ..	Sembiamahadevi ..	0.57
Sri Govindaswami Nayudu, Vadugacheri.	Nannilam ..	Erangudi ..	1.08
		Pillali ..	0.39
		Tirukannapuram.	0.36
Sri Vijayaragavulu Nayudu ..	Do. ..	Kayathur ..	0.15
His Holiness Rasi Vasi Arulanadhi Tarabiran, Tirupanandal Mutt.	Kumbakonam ..	Tiruppanandal ..	2.32
		Kathanagaram ..	0.05
		Mannikkudi ..	1.94
		Virakkan ..	2.40
		Ukkarai ..	1.75
		Chidambaramathapuram.	0.05
		Tiruloki ..	3.66
		Sooriamoolai ..	1.65
Sri Ramaswami Vondayar, Puliyakudi.	Papanasam ..	Puliyakudi ..	0.25
Jointly by several mirasidars ..	Do. ..	Poonayiruppu ..	2.92
		Chakrapalli ..	1.70
		Total ..	36.41

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide item III on page 577 supra.]

Statement on the present food situation in the Madras State.

Season conditions and Crop Prospects.—The seasonal conditions in 1951 (up to June) were not brighter than in the previous year except during April 1951, when the rainfall was above the normal in all districts except Anantapur. In June, the south-west monsoon started early and the rainfall was above the average in the Circars, the Ceded districts and the West Coast; but in the Central and Southern districts it was generally less than normal. Cultivation operations which were started, in the early part of the month, were affected owing to the subsequent slackening of the monsoon. The rains had revived in July, brightening up prospects a bit, but more rains are needed in the Ceded, Central and Southern districts to save the standing crops.

Water-supply was inadequate in Kurnool, Chingleput, Chittoor, North Arcot, South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Pudukkottai division, Ramanathapuram and in parts of Guntur, Bellary, Madurai and Tirunelveli.

Standing crops are reported to be withering in Batlagundu, firka of Madurai district, Vilathikulam area of Tirunelveli district, Wallajah taluk of the North Arcot district and in parts of Dharmapuri and Namakkal taluks of Salem district, for want of rains. More rains are needed for the improvement of crops in Ramanathapuram district.

In West Godavari district due to heavy rains, 168,000 acres under paddy crops are reported to have been submerged. Loss of rice is estimated at 60,000 tons of which 25,000 tons would have been used by cultivators and 35,000 tons could have been available for local procurement. Damage to food crops due to floods also occurred in Krishna district but details are not yet available.

2. *Production of food crops.*—The production of rice is estimated at 40.3 lakhs of tons and of millets at 20 lakhs of tons. The production is short of the normal by 8.7 lakhs of tons of rice and 6 lakhs of tons of millets.

3. *Imports and basic plan.*—In response to the insistent representations made by this Government, the Government of India first increased the import quota under the Basic Plan to this State from 4 to 5 lakhs of tons and of rice from 1 to 2 lakhs of tons in March 1951 and on further strong representations, they have, in June 1951, doubled the overall quota to this State, i.e., from 5 to 10 lakhs of tons. This will consist of 2 lakhs of tons of rice, 4.5 lakhs of tons of wheat and 3.5 lakhs of tons of millets. To the representations made by this Government for the increase of the rice quota by another 2 lakhs tons, the Government of India have stated,

[1st September 1951]

Intimation has been received of a further donation of 72 care food packages to this Government. Steps are being taken to take delivery of these packages and to distribute them to the poor and deserving in this State.

J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA,
Minister for Food.

APPENDIX.

Statement showing the total number of fair price shops and grain shops functioning in each district as on 15th August 1951.

Districts.	Number of fair price shops and grain shops.	Districts.	Number of fair price shops and grain shops.
(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
Anantapur ..	44	Kurnool ..	272
North Arcot ..	343	Mathurai ..	163
South Arcot ..	170	Nellore ..	202
Bellary ..	139	Ramanathapuram ..	412
Chingleput ..	538	Salem ..	299
Chittoor ..	415	Srikakulam ..	308
Coimbatore ..	709	Tiruchirappalli ..	303
Cuddapah ..	79	Tirunelveli ..	461
East Godavari ..	392	Visakhapatnam ..	566
West Godavari ..	306		
Guntur ..	491	Total ..	6,905
South Kanara ..	229		
Krishna ..	66		

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, the 3rd September 1951.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I shall take up the short notice question No. * 71-A at the end.”

Election to the Godavari Central Co-operative Stores, Limited, Rajahmundry.

* 72 Q.—SRI K. LINGARAJU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that election to the Godavari Central Co-operative Stores, Limited, Rajahmundry, have not been held since April 1950 under orders of Government;

(b) whether a Special Officer has been appointed for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not holding the elections?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ (a) No orders were issued by the Government regarding the elections to the Godavari Central Co-operative Stores, Ltd., Rajahmundry.

“ (b) and (c) On account of factious spirit existing among the Directors of the Stores, a deadlock was created in its normal working. The Committee of the Stores was therefore superseded by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies under Section 43 of the Madras Co-operative Societies Act for a period of 6 months with effect from 26th June 1950. A Departmental Officer of the grade of Co-operative Sub-Registrar was appointed as Special Officer of the Stores in the place of the Committee. The period of supersession of the Committee had to be extended subsequently for a further period till 25—12—1951. The differences among the members have not been settled completely and it was found impossible to secure a team of Directors who would work smoothly in the best interests of the Stores.”

SRI K. LINGARAJU :—“ May I enquire if the Government or the Registrar apprehended any breach of peace for stopping elections? ”

[Janab M. S. Abdul Majid] [1st September 1951]

the Government must make every effort to see that happiness and contentment are brought to the people as soon as possible. It is no use accusing us of spreading message of misery among the people. But I would say one thing and that is that we suffer when we see others suffer. Therefore, we are asking the Government to adopt immediately schemes which could drive away misery and unhappiness among the people of the State."

1-30 p.m.

* Sri A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—“கனம் சபாநாயகி அவர்களே, இந்த உணவுப் பிரச்சினையைப் பற்றி எனது நண்பர் கனம் ஸ்ரீ கோசல்ராம் அவர்கள் பேசியதில் ஒரு முக்கியமான விஷயத்தை நான் முழு மனதுடன் ஆதரிக்கின்றேன். அவர்கள் கூறிய இந்த யோசனை காலம் கடந்ததாக இருந்த போதிலும், இப்பொழுது அது பயன்படாமற்போனாலும், எதிர் காலத்திலாவது அது கவனிக்கப்படுமென்று நான் எதிர்பார்க்கின்றேன்—

இதனை இதனால் இவன்முடிக்கு மென்றாய்ந்து அதனை அவன்கள் விடில்.

“என்று பொய்யா மொழிப் புலவர் கூறியிருக்கிறார். எந்தக் காரியத்தை எந்த சீர்தன்மை கொண்டு யாரால் திறம்பட செய்து முடிக்க முடியுமோ அவரிடம் அந்தப் பொறுப்பை ஒப்படைக்க வேண்டும் என்பது 2,000 வருடங்களுக்கு முன் நம்முடைய அரசியல் சட்டம். அதை நம்முடைய முந்தைய சபை முன்னதாகவே கவனித்திருக்குமானால், இந்த அளவுக்கு இந்தப் புகார் எல்லையைத் தாண்டியிருக்காது. இப்பொழுது இது காலம் கடந்த யோசனையாக இருந்தபோதிலும் எதிர்காலத்தில் இதை நன்றாக ஆராய்ந்து பின்பு படுத்திக் கொள்ளுவார்கள் என்பதற்காக ஸ்ரீ கோசல்ராம் அவர்கள் சொன்ன அந்த விஷயத்தை நான் ஆதரிக்கின்றேன்.

உணவு விஷயத்தில் இப்பொழுது இருக்கின்ற கஷ்டத்தை நிவர்த்திக்க மூன்று முறைகள் நாம் கையாளலாம். முதலாவதாக, உணவு உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்கும் விஷயமாக நம்முடைய சென்னை அரசாங்கம் என்ன சிந்தனை எடுத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள்? ஏதோ சில முயற்சிகளை எடுத்துக் கொண்டுதான் இருக்கிறார்கள். பயிர்ப் போட்டி (crop commission) முறைகளை அவர்கள் கையாண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஏதோ ஒரு சில இடத்தில், ஒன்றிரண்டு ஏக்கரில், இதைக் கையாளுவதனால் மட்டும் இந்த மாசாணத்தில் இருக்கின்ற பஞ்சம் முழுவதும் தீர்ந்து விடப் போவதில்லை. ஆனால், விவசாயிகளிடம் உற்சாகத்தை ஊட்டி, அதிக உற்பத்தி செய்வதற்கு, இது ஒரு சிறந்த சாதனமாக இருக்கிறது என்பதை நாம் மறுப்பதற்கில்லை.

“அது மாதிரி ஒவ்வொரு விவசாயியும் தன்னுடைய விவசாயத்தை அதிகப்படுத்துவதற்காக அரசாங்கம் இம்மாதிரி உற்சாகமூட்டுவார்களானால், நம்முடைய மாகாணத்தில் இன்றைக்கு இருக்கின்ற இந்தப் பெரிய பிரச்சினையைத் தீர்க்க உதவுமே அல்லாது ஏதோ ஒரு சில இடத்தில், ஒரு தாலுகாவில் ஒன்றிரண்டு ஏக்கரில் அதிக சாகுபடி செய்து விட்டார்களென்றால் அது பிரச்சினையை முழுவதும் தீர்ப்பதற்குப் பயன்படாது. ஆனால், ஒரு முக்கியமான விஷயம், என்னவென்றால் உலகத்திலேயே ரொம்பக் குறைந்த உற்பத்தி செய்கின்ற நாடு என்ற அந்த அபகீர்த்தி நீங்கி நம்முடைய நாட்டில் இப்பொழுது எந்த நாட்டைக் காட்டிலும் அதிக உற்பத்தி செய்து காட்ட முடியும் என்பதை இதன் மூலமாக நிரூபித்துக் காட்ட முடியும். சென்ற வருடத்தில் கொடுத்ததைக் காட்டிலும் யார் எவ்வளவு தானியம் அதிகமாகக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்களோ அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு பரிசு என்று கொடுக்க வேண்டும். அந்தப் பரிசு ரூபாயாக இல்லாது போனாலும் பரமாயில்லை. விவசாயத்தை மேன்மேலும் அதிகமாக்குவதற்கு நிலையடி வசதிகளை இலவசமாக்கிவோ குறைந்த விலைக்கோ அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்த அரசாங்கம் முன்வருவார்களேயானால் ஒவ்வொரு விவசாயியும் அதிக உற்பத்தி செய்வதற்கு ஊக்கமளிக்கும்.

“தனார் வசதி இல்லாத இடங்களில் சர்க்கார் விவசாய இலாகா நிதியை சாதனங்களைக் கொண்டு பூமியில் இருக்கின்ற ஊற்று நீரை

[Sri.A. Vedaratnam Pillai] [1st September 1951]

விவசாயத்திற்கு பிரயோஜனப்படும் முறையில் அதற்குண்டான உதவிகளைச் சொய்வார்களேயானால், மழை தவறிப் போன இடங்களில் கிணறு போன்ற வசதிகளைக் கொண்டு உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்கக் கூடும்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, உற்பத்தியாகக் கூடிய தானியத்தை வீணாக்காமல் அதை எந்த விதமாக எப்படிப் பயன்படுத்த முடியுமோ அந்த முறையைக் கையாள் முன் வருவோம். Godown வசதிகள் இல்லாததைப் பற்றியும் அதனால் தானியம் வீணாகி இருக்கிற விஷயத்தைப் பற்றியும் எனக்கு முன் பேசிய பல அங்கத்தினர்கள் குறிப்பிட்டார்கள்.

“நான் உபரி ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து வந்தவனாக இருப்பினும் இன்னொரு விஷயத்தைக் குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். தானியம் அறுவடை காலத்தில் procurement ஏராளமாகச் செய்யப்பட்டு அந்த தானியம் போதிய ரயில் வாகன வசதிகள் இல்லாத காரணத்தால் ரயில்வே ஸ்டேஷன் Goods shedகளில் பத்தாயிரக்கணக்கான மூட்டைகளுக்கு மேல் அடுக்கிக் கிடந்து, மழையில் கிடந்து, முளைத்து அநியாயமாக வீணாகப் போகும் காலசியை எங்கள் ஜில்லாவின் வழியாக ரயிலில் பிரயாணம் செய்பவர்கள் பார்த்திருக்கக் கூடும். ரயில் வாகன வசதிகள் இல்லாமல் ஏராளமாக பார்த்திருக்கக் கூடும். ரயில் வாகன வசதிகள் இல்லாமல் தானியம் நெல் மூட்டைகள் ஒரு பக்கத்தில் குவிந்து கிடக்க, மற்றொருபக்கத்தில் தானியம் இல்லாமல் மக்கள் பட்டினியால் வாடும் நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறார்களென்றால், அது நிர்வாகத் திறமைக் குறைவு அல்லாமல் வேறு காரணம் சொல்லுவதற்கு இல்லை. ஆகையால், அந்த மாதிரி குவிந்து கிடக்கின்ற தானியத்தை உடனுக்குடன் ஏற்றிச் செல்வதற்குப் போதிய ரயில் வாகன வசதி இல்லாமல் போனாலும், லாரிகள் மூலமாகவாவது பக்கத்திலுள்ள ஜில்லாக்களுக்குப் போக வேண்டிய இடத்தில் அதைக் கொண்டுபோக முயற்சி செய்தால் ஏராளமாக நாம் கொள்முதல் செய்ய முடியும். அந்த சமயத்தில் ரயில்வே ஸ்டேஷனில் தானியம் வீணாகப் போகாமலும் பாதுகாக்க முடியும்.

“மூன்றாவதாக, mill மூலமாக அரிசியை அறைப்பதனால் சத்து நஷ்டமாகி விடுகிறது என்பது நிபுணர்கள் எல்லாம் ஆராய்ந்து காணிய பிடித்த உண்மை. கைக்குத்தல் அரிசியை ஜனங்கள் உண்பதனால் இந்த வீணாகும் சத்து ஜனங்களுக்கு அதிகமாகக் கிடைக்கிறது என்பதும் அறிஞர்களுடைய முடிவு. அதோடுகூட, இதன் மூலம் 10 சத வீதம் அரிசியைத் தானியத்தின் அளவும் அதிகமாகக் கிடைக்கிறது, என்று உணவுத் தானியத்தின் நிபுணர்கள் கூறியும், இன்றைக்கும் இந்த விஷயத்தில் எத்தனையோ நிபுணர்கள் கூறியும், இன்றைக்கும் இந்த விஷயத்தில் அரசாங்கம் போதிய கவனத்தைச் செலுத்தியதாகத் தெரியவில்லை.

“ஆறிலும், Rice mill licences இன்னமும் கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது, என்று சொன்னால் அது மிகவும் விசனிக்கத்தக்க விஷயம், என்பதைத் தான் குறிப்பிடுகிறேன். கைக்குத்தல் தொழிலை ஊக்குவித்து இன்னும் அதிகமாக உற்பத்தி செய்வதற்கான வசதிகளை ஏதும் அரசாங்கம் செய்யவில்லை. இப்பொழுது ஏதோ ஒரு சில இடத்தில் இது நடந்து வருகிறது. இது விஷயத்தில் மக்களிடையே போதிய உற்சாகத்தை ஊட்டுவதற்கான முறைகளை அரசாங்கம் கையாள்வில்லை. ஆனால், குடிசைக் கைத் தொழி முறைகளை அரசாங்கம் கையாள்வில்லை. இருக்கின்றார்கள். கிடைக்கின்ற விலை ரூபாடுள்ளவர்கள் பிழைப்பில்லாமல் இருக்கின்றார்கள். கிடைக்கின்ற தானியத்தை 10 சத வீதம் அதிகமாகவும் சத்துள்ளதாகவும் இருக்கும்படி குடிசைக் கைத்தொழில் மூலமாக கிராமங்களிலிருந்து பெற முடியும்போது இதில் ஏன் அரசாங்கம் தன் முழு கவனத்தையும் செலுத்த முன்வரவில்லை என்பதைத் தான் நான் அவர்களுக்குச் சுட்டிக் காட்ட விரும்புகின்றேன்.”

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member may continue his speech after lunch. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2-30 p.m.”

The House then adjourned to meet again at 2-30 p.m.

[8rd September 1951]

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"The Registrar found that it was impossible to conduct elections as there were factions. That is why, he extended the supersession period for a further term."

SRI K. LINGARAJU:—"Is it the policy of the Government to postpone elections in all cases where they find factious spirit existing and where they cannot get an agreed list of Directors?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"It is not a question of getting an agreed list of Directors. When there are vehement factions and when it is impossible to conduct elections properly, in such exceptional cases only, we will be doing these things."

SRI B. S. MURTHY:—"May I know whether the Government are prepared to hold elections now that the factious spirit is no more there and there is an amicable spirit prevailing among those people who are anxious to become Directors?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"I will call for a report from the Registrar and as soon as I get it, I will, as far as possible, try to see that elections are conducted."

SRI K. LINGARAJU:—"Will the Hon. Minister accept my information—coming as I do from Rajahmundry—that there is no factious spirit existing there and elections can be conducted very smoothly and therefore, will he re-consider the question and order elections at once?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"As already stated I will call for a report from the Registrar and see what I could do in the matter."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I want to know whether in the election rules, there is any provision that elections should be postponed if there is factious spirit?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Factious spirit means not simple party spirit, when it becomes impossible to conduct elections. There is difference between 'factious spirit' and 'party spirit'."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the enrolment of new members is allowed, if not, will the Government consider the desirability of enrolling more new members so as to see that the faction among the existing members is reduced to a minimum by the coming in of new members and that healthy spirit prevails so as to run elections as soon as possible?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Generally in a co-operative society, or for that matter in any institution connected with Co-operation, the public are allowed freely to come and join."

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI:—"May I ask, whether nowadays these factions have become a matter of common affair in almost all co-operative societies?"

3rd September 1951]

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"I do not agree with the hon. Member."

* SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I ask, whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to give an assurance that the Special Officer's term will not be further extended beyond 25-12-1951?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"As I told you, I would call for a report from the Registrar and see what I could do in the matter."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—"May I know who is responsible for this factious spirit and whether the Government have anything to do with it?" (Laughter).

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"The Government have nothing to do with this factious spirit."

Construction of a road from Kottapadi to Kundukadava in Ponnani taluk.

* 73 Q.—SRI P. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a road from Kottapadi to Kundukadava in Ponnani taluk, Malabar; and

(b) if so, when the construction of this road will be taken up and when it will be fit for motor traffic?

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

(b) The alignment of the road to be formed will be fixed shortly. The required land will then have to be acquired and the road formed and metalled."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, what is the distance of this road which will connect these two important centres and whether this road comes under Highways or Provincial Highways or District Board roads?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"National Highways."

Hostel and school for the Anamalai tribes.

* 74 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state with reference to question No. 39 answered on 11th August 1950, the stage at which the proposal to open a school and hostel for the Anamalai tribes at Sungam stands?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister):—"The Government have already sanctioned the opening of a school with a hostel attached to it, at Sungam in Coimbatore district for affording educational facilities to the children of the aboriginal tribes on the Anamalais. The school is expected to start functioning by about the beginning of September 1951."

[3rd September 1951]

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ May I know, whether preliminary arrangements for opening the school and the hostel have been completed and if so, what is the strength of the hostel and the expenditure to be incurred by the Government thereon? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ We have asked the Department to start the school and the hostel from the beginning of September and we expect that they will be opened this week. ”

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—“ Is it a residential school and if so, how many students are given admission? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ There may be other pupils too, but the hostel will be there. ”

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—“ Number, please? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Perhaps the Hon. Minister wants notice. ”

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

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—“ Are the Government aware of the fact that the trouble with these schools is the finding of teachers and will the Government make sure and see that they will have permanent teachers so that the school may go on permanently without interruption? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ The hon. Member is raising a very big question of retaining teachers permanently. We will have to consider it in all its aspects. ”

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAY :—“ May I know whether the Government have got any other proposal for the uplift of the Tribes in the State? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ The report of the Special Development Officer has just been received and we are examining it. ”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—“ May I know whether the school and the hostel are to be run under the auspices of the Harijan Welfare Department or any other Department? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Rural Welfare Department. ”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ May I know what is the agency that manages this hostel? Is it the District Harijan Sevak Sangh or the District Forest Officer or any other officer? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ I have no information. ”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ Will the hon. Minister please call for the information? ”

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

[3rd September 1951]

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—“ May I ask, whether arrangements have been made for the stationing of teachers permanently in those areas because our past experience has been that any teacher posted in that area takes leave and goes out and thereby the school, in spite of its being there, suffers for want of teachers? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ When the school is started, we will see that a permanent teacher is stationed there. We shall take all necessary steps in that direction. ”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ May I know the provision that has been made for the boarders there and what is the expenditure on each boarder? I want more details about it. ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ I am sorry, I do not have the information just now and if the hon. Member puts a separate question, I shall certainly answer. ”

Proposal to revive the toll-gate system in Nellore district.

* 75 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government propose to revive the toll-gate system obtaining in Nellore district?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ There is no proposal to permit any local body in the Nellore district to levy tolls. ”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ Are the Government aware that in Nellore town to-day, for every cart that enters the town, whether it enters the cart-stand or not, a sum of three annas is being collected and this collection has been going on for the past six months unchecked, despite repeated protests and complaints made by me and certain other friends. ”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ I do not know anything about the hon. Member's complaint. This is a matter relating to toll collection. There is no such proposal before the Government. ”

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—“ May I know, so far as the toll-gate collections are concerned, whether the Government have no proposal with reference to Nellore only or with reference to other districts also? ”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ There is no such proposal for the whole of this State. ”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ Collection is being made at every toll-gate at the rate of three annas for every cart in Nellore town. Is it allowed according to the rules? What is the idea of allowing this collection? ”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ It is not a toll-gate collection. It is a vehicle tax. ”

[3rd September 1951]

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ Will the Government understand my point clearly? Toll-gate collection is being made irrespective of the cart going to the cart-stand or not. This is being collected unauthorisedly, illegally and persistently. May I know if the Government have allowed such a collection? ”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ No, Sir. It has not been allowed by this Government. It is not a thing that can be allowed by any Government. If the hon. Member brings to my notice any such case, I will certainly consider it.”

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—“ Is the Hon. Minister aware that in towns like Vijayawada, Eluru and Rajahmundry, poor people who bring fuel in carts to the cities are illegally asked to pay a levy? Will the Government take action to see that such illegal collections are not made? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ The question is about Nellore. Is the Hon. Minister wishes to answer, I have no objection.”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ If the hon. Member brings any concrete instance to my notice, I will consider the matter.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ In view of the fact that most of the municipalities make this collection in spite of the fact that they do not provide standing facilities for carts, will the Government consider the desirability of instructing these municipalities by strict orders to collect it at the cart-stand and not anywhere in the municipal limit? ”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ I do not accept the hon. Member's premise that all municipalities are doing like that.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ Are the Government aware that all the panchayat boards and municipalities in the Nellore district are making this collection even though the carts do not enter and make use of the cart-stands and this is illegal according to rules? ”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ Government are not aware of such a thing.”

Tests for declaring particular tribes as Scheduled Tribes.

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

(a) whether the Government of India have prescribed any tests for declaring particular tribes as Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, whether those tests have been communicated to the Madras Government;

(c) whether the Government of Madras have applied those tests to the tribes of Madras;

(d) if so, with what results; and

(e) the names of tribes that have satisfied the tests prescribed by the India Government?

3rd September 1951]

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“(a) No.

“(b) to (e) Do not arise.”

11-15
a.m.

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ Sir, May I know on what basis this Government had classified certain tribes of this State as Scheduled Tribes? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ The question is hardly relevant as, I think, it is the Government of India that does it.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ Sir, I shall put my question in a different way, Sir; is it a fact that the Government of India . . . ”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ Sir, may I draw the attention of the Chair to the fact that the Hon. Minister did not answer clauses (c), (d) and (e).”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ I said in answer that clauses (b) to (e) ‘do not arise.’ ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Perhaps the hon. Member did not follow the answer.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ Sir, is it a fact that the Government of India had made a reference to this Government asking this Government to advise them as to which tribes should be classified as Scheduled Tribes in the Government of India Scheduled Tribes Order? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Sir, the hon. Member has been raising this issue before the Government for some time past and so I would like to answer this question in some detail.

“ The Government of India have not prescribed any tests for declaring particular tribes as Scheduled Tribes. The President of the Union has already, in pursuance of the direction given in Article 342 (1) of the Constitution of India, declared which were the Scheduled Tribes in the various States. In December 1950, the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, however, raised the question as to what objective test could be adopted to classify decisively aboriginal and hill tribes as scheduled tribes. He invited the suggestions of the State Governments on this question. This Government accordingly suggested to him in May 1951 the adoption of the following two criteria as decisive and objective tests for the classification of aboriginal and hill tribes as Scheduled Tribes :—

- (1) whether the tribe in question is pursuing a primitive way of life peculiar and exclusive to itself; and
- (2) whether the tribe habitually resides in less easily accessible hills and in remote or interior forests and has either failed to establish contact with the general body politic or has established contact only in a restricted manner which does not amount to any degree of assimilation with the culture of the general body politic.

[1st September 1951]

The scales of ration now in force are as follows :—

Statutory and rural rationed areas of the State.

Rice eaters	6 ounces of rice, wheat, milo, millets and/or bread plus 8 ounces of wheat, milo, millets and/or bread.
Mixed diet eaters	3 ounces of rice, wheat, milo, millets and/or bread plus 9 ounces of wheat, milo, millets and/or bread.
Millet eaters	2 ounces of rice, wheat, milo, millets and/or bread plus 10 ounces of millets, milo, wheat and/or bread.

6. *Fair Price Shops—Scale of rations.*—I. In the districts of Anantapur, North Arcot, Bellary, Chingleput, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Kurnool, Mathurai, Ramanathapuram, Salem, Srikantham, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli, Visakhapatnam, South Kanara and South Arcot.

2 oz. rice plus 10 oz. wheat/millets/and/or milo.

II. In the upland areas of the surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Nellore.

4 oz. rice plus 8 oz. wheat, millets and/or milo.

III. In the district of Tanjore and in the deltaic areas (other than the upland areas) of surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Nellore where the Intensive Procurement Order is in force.

8 oz. rice plus 4 oz. wheat, millets and/or milo.

The number of fair price shops and grain shops functioning in the State has been gradually increasing. A statement showing the number of fair price and grain shops functioning in each district as on 15th August 1951 is appended. In addition, 2,855 rural ration shops in rural rationed areas and 3,189 rice retail shops in surplus districts are also functioning.

7. *Food Budget.*—Our food budget for the remaining part of the calendar year 1951 will be as follows :—

	Rice.	Wheat and wheat products.	Millets.
	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.
1 Stocks on 18th August 1951	104,632	35,509	74,686
2 Quantity expected to be procured.	170,000	..	..
3 Quantity received out of the Government of India's allotment.	130,000	280,000	120,000
4 Total availabilities	404,632	315,509	194,686
5 Requirements for consumption for the rest of the year.	400,000	150,000	190,000
6 Balance plus	4,632	165,509	4,686

[1st September 1951]

8. *Increase in price of rice and wheat.*—Up to 8th July 1951, the Government of India were supplying imported foodgrains at the following pool prices :—

		Per imperial maund.		
		RS.	A.	P.
Rice	{ Fine	26	8	0
	{ Coarse	22	11	0
Wheat	..	16	6	0
Maida	..	21	0	0
Milo	..	12	0	0

From 9th July 1951, they increased the pool price of coarse rice by 11 annas and of wheat and maida by Rs. 2 per maund, respectively. The question therefore arose as to how the additional loss to this Government on account of this increase in the pool prices of coarse rice and wheat could be met. The sale of 'fine rice' at its high cost price (i.e., pool price of Rs. 26-8-0 plus actual incidentals) in certain towns in the districts of Malabar, South Kanara and North Arcot gave rise to loud protests and a lot of public agitation in these districts on account of the exorbitant price and poor quality of the rice. The question as to how this fine rice should be disposed of had also to be decided. After carefully examining these questions, the Government took the following decisions :—

(1) 'Fine' rice should be sold in all parts of the State at the prices appropriate to first sort rice with effect from 12th August 1951.

(2) In order to partially recover the loss on account of the increase in the pool price of coarse rice by 11 annas per maund and the loss resulting from sale of imported fine rice at the price of rice first sort, the price of rice should be uniformly increased by 14 annas per maund throughout the State, including the four industrial towns of Madras, Mathurai, Visakhapatnam and Coimbatore with effect from 12th August 1951.

(3) Wheat should be sold at cost price on a 'no profit no loss basis' throughout the State, including the four industrial towns from 12th August 1951 as it was considered undesirable to have two levels of prices, one for the four towns and another for areas outside, especially in view of the fact that the difference between the subsidized and the non-subsidized prices was nearly Rs. 5 per maund. Maida and millet continue to be sold at actual cost price.

9. *Food situation in derationed districts.*—In order to keep a close watch on the food situation in the derationed districts, Government are getting weekly reports from Collectors. According to

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SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" Sir, is it not the policy of the Government that, whenever they refuse the demands of the public, they ask their officers to state the reasons for the non-compliance of the public demand? In this particular case, if the Inspector had inspected previously, he would not have refused the demand of the public. May I ask Government to instruct their executive officers to go to the spot, especially when there is a demand from the public like panchayat boards and co-operative societies, before they issue their orders? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" I said, though he at first refused permission, subsequently he went to the locality, looked into the whole matter, met the other panchayat concerned and allowed the request. He cannot be expected to go every day to every panchayat; it is impossible."

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—" May I know what is the policy of the Government when a panchayat asks for permission to open a new market when there is already a market run by a private agency? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" The Panchayat Act specifically says that the panchayat has a priority of right over others to open a market."

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—" May I know whether the Government will be pleased to issue a circular to the panchayat boards and to the Inspector of Local Boards that preference should be given to panchayat boards to open markets when there is an application to open a market by a private individual and a panchayat board? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" It is all provided in the Act itself."

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—" May I know whether the Government know that private individuals are more powerful sometimes than panchayats? In such cases, they will be influencing officers. In this particular case, there was the influence of a big individual at the back of the refusal by the Inspector. So, may I know what arrangements Government are making to see that in future such lapses do not take place? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" There is no question of interference by any outside individual. Some individual is running a market in one place. Nearby, there is a panchayat board. It applied to the Inspector of Local Boards for permission to run a market. But the Inspector refused to give sanction as it would be detrimental to the interests of the existing market nearby. But afterwards, after going into the details, after inspecting the locality and after meeting the two panchayat boards, he gave permission under certain conditions."

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Alleged shooting in Meenambur village.

* 71-A Q.—JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state the full details with regard to the recent shooting in the village of Meenambur, South Arcot district, resulting in the death of seven persons?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) :—" On 30th August; on information that contraband articles valued about Rs. 30,000 were kept concealed at Palliampattu, a portion of Meenambur village, and Kavaraicheri, close to Meenambur, the Customs authorities, after obtaining search warrants from the Judicial Sub-Magistrate, Gingee, organized a raid. The party went to Kavaraicheri at 8 a.m. in the morning and recovered some contraband articles. The party then proceeded to Palliampattu at 11 a.m. and searched three houses. No smuggled articles were found in these houses, but on learning that some articles had been removed to the neighbouring house, the Customs party applied for a search warrant to search the house of Bashu Sahib. The Customs officials at about 2-30 p.m. stationed S.A.P. men in the street on three sides of the block of houses in which this house is situated. By that time, villagers numbering about 200 surrounded the Customs party and started obstructing them. At 3-15 p.m., the fresh search warrant was received, but they were again obstructed from entering the house. Two Deputy Superintendents of Customs proceeded immediately to Gingee and brought with them the Sub-Magistrate and the Circle Inspector of Police and some local police constables. At 4-45 p.m., the search of the house commenced after the arrival of the Magistrate. The Sub-Magistrate warned the people not to obstruct the party and as they entered the house, packets of blank cards were seen being burnt inside the house:

" The villagers, who had gathered outside the compound of the house, started stone-throwing at this time and some of them rushed inside the house. A Customs Inspector was hit on the head and another Inspector received a severe stone on the head as a result of which he fell down. As he fell down, one of the villagers snatched his musket and fired a shot, which went close to the Sub-Magistrate. Finding that the situation was becoming uncontrollable and that the crowd of villagers had approached so close and were trying to overpower the party, the Sub-Magistrate was compelled to order the opening of fire and also ordered that the party should retreat.

" The S.A.P. party are reported to have fired 30 rounds as a result of which 3 villagers were seen falling down. The Police and the Customs staff appear to have returned to Gingee, where they gave a complaint at the Police station,

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"The final decision of the Government of India on this question is still awaited."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—"Sir, does not Government think that the Kadaras and Mallasars of the Anamalai Hills, the Irulas of Attapadi as well as the Enadis, Erukulas and Sugalis of Andhra do live in a very primitive condition and are still living in forests and hills, very inaccessible to the plainsman, particularly, the Erukulas, Enadis, Sugalis, etc., whose population amounts to two lakhs, and they have been omitted from this list? May I inquire whether this test prescribed by the Government of Madras was applied to them and they were found wanting?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"While certain tribes conform to Principle I, some of them may not conform to Principle II; both conditions should be satisfied to be included in this list. They must have a primitive way of life peculiar and exclusive to themselves and they must be living in less easily accessible hills and in remote or interior forests and should not have established contact with the general body politic. The Yenadis have contact with the men in the plains and they have been assimilated more or less with the general public. Similarly, the Irulas and Sugalis should satisfy both the conditions to be included in this list."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY :—"In determining the number of seats for Scheduled Tribes, may I know which of the categories were taken into account to justify a seat? I mean to ask whether those tribes which, though living away from the towns, did come into contact with the general body politic, were excluded?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"No, Sir. They have four seats."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—"May I know, Sir, what the special reasons are which weighed with the Chief Minister to give this portfolio to the Hon. Leader of the House and may I know what the special steps taken by him are within the last five years to improve the lot of these scheduled tribes?" (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER :—"What has this to do with the main question?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"I shall answer the question, Sir. Most of the Agency areas are in the Telugu districts and more especially in the Godavari and Visakhapatnam areas. Therefore the Hon. Chief Minister in 1947 thought that a Minister hailing from Telugu districts may be in charge of this."

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—"Arising out of the answer that four seats have been allotted to the scheduled tribes, may I know what is the percentage of seats allotted to the scheduled tribes for admission to the colleges?"

MR. SPEAKER :—"The main question has nothing to do with the admission to colleges."

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Permission to open a weekly market within the limits of the P. Alagapuri Panchayat.

* 77 Q.—SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Panchayat Board of P. Alagapuri in Pudukkottai Division, Tiruchirappalli district, applied to the Inspector of Local Boards for permission to open a weekly market in their area to increase their revenue;

(b) whether the application was recommended both by the District Health Officer and the District Panchayat Officer;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Inspector of Local Boards turned down their request, and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Panchayat Board has appealed against it, and if so, the action taken in the matter?

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

" (b) Yes."

" (c) Yes. The Inspector of Local Boards refused permission on the ground that the conduct of a market within the limits of the P. Alagapuri Panchayat would be detrimental to the interests of the existing weekly market within the limits of the Kilasevalpatti Panchayat;

" (d) No appeal was received by Government from the Panchayat in the matter. The Panchayat applied to the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards a second time and the Inspector in his proceedings, dated the 9th June 1951, permitted the panchayat to open a market in its area."

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—"Sir, now that the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has rescinded his previous order and given permission for the market being opened, may I ask whether the previous refusal was due to the fact that there was a big man, who was running a private market nearby, and the Inspector was influenced by him not to give permission as it would affect his market?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—"No, Sir, there is a private market in Kilasevalpatti, which is nearly six furlongs from Alagapuri. That is why the Inspector at first thought that the distance being very short there would be conflict with the other market. But afterwards the Inspector went there, personally inspected both the areas, consulted both the panchayats and put different dates in the week for holding the two markets and thus permitted this panchayat board to run the market."

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—"May I know whether the Raja Sahib of Chettinad is the owner of the private market in that particular area?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—"I do not know."

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ We shall ask them that question. I do not know whether they were supplied with tear-gas equipment. This matter has to be looked into.”

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG :—“ Do not the Government think it necessary to institute a judicial enquiry and not an enquiry by executive officers to restore confidence among the people in an incident in which nine lives have been lost which is a light shooting-war as it were? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Whether we should institute a judicial enquiry or not is too premature for a decision now. We are just awaiting reports from the Collector and the District Superintendent of Police. Only after studying the reports we can say whether it is necessary or not. The police went to the spot on the initiative of the Customs authorities. We are not interested in shielding anybody. If the officers have exceeded their limits, they will certainly be punished.”

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“ Is it not true that, because one officer fell down, 9 lives were sacrificed and 16 persons were injured? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ It was not merely a case of an officer falling down as a result of stone-hit, but that one of the villagers snatched his musket and fired a shot which went close to the Sub-Magistrate. When the crowd had approached so close and the officers were inside the house, the Sub-Magistrate thought that opening of fire was necessary.”

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI :—“ The Hon. Minister said that the shot narrowly missed the Sub-Magistrate. If the Sub-Magistrate was in the crowd, did the shot wound anybody else in the crowd or was he away somewhere sitting in a travellers' bungalow? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ The Sub-Magistrate was on the spot and he ordered the firing.”

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—“ Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Leader of the House that there was no lathi charge or use of tear-gas and not even a warning . . . ? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Ample warnings were given.”

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—“ Anyhow, it is a fact that there was no lathi charge or use of tear-gas. May I know what prompted the officers on the spot to resort to shooting straightway, killing 9 persons and injuring 16 others and yet not to get them medical aid for 18 hours? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ The hon. Member is making a mistake. I have said in my reply : ‘ The Sub-Magistrate warned the people not to obstruct the party and

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as they entered the house packets of blank cards were seen being burnt inside the house.” So he did warn the people not to obstruct the officers in carrying out the raid.”

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—“ The Hon. Leader of the House said that he was awaiting reports from the Collector and the District Superintendent of Police to see whether the police exceeded the mark or not and to decide upon the question of instituting a judicial enquiry. I want to know whether a police report will not be in favour of the police. Therefore I feel that a judicial enquiry must precede any report to enable the Government to come to the right decision.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ If the hon. Member thinks that the District Superintendent of Police always sides the police on the spot who have to handle a very delicate situation, I think he is not fair to the district officers concerned.”

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—“ When we have Hon. Ministers going on tour on the slightest gesture of invitation to open a hotel why has not even one single Minister rushed to the spot to create confidence among the public and enquire into the matter? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ We were busy with the Assembly work.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ The Hon. Minister just read 11-45 a.m.
The Sub-Magistrate warned the people not to obstruct the party and as they entered the house packets of blank cards were seen being burnt inside the house.” What we want to know is whether the Sub-Magistrate warned the people to disperse before ordering shooting. Is there any indication in the report that warning was given, before shooting was ordered, that the people should disperse? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ I shall again read out the relevant portion. The report says—

“ A Customs Inspector was hit on the head and another Inspector received a severe stone-hit on his back as a result of which he fell down. As he fell down, one of the villagers snatched his musket and fired a shot, which went close to the Sub-Magistrate . . .

“ When the shot went, just by the side of the Sub-Magistrate, I do not think hon. Members can reasonably expect the Sub-Magistrate to wait for five seconds to give a warning, when the crowd was so overpowering.”

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG :—“ Sir, the statement read out to us by the Hon. the Leader of the House does not disclose that the mob was armed. Further, it does not mention where these nine persons were standing when shooting was ordered. May I request the Government that in the preliminary enquiry which is to be made, the information with regard to these two or three

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and then proceeded to Tindivanam. One Customs Deputy Superintendent of Police, 1 Inspector, 2 Customs peons, 1 S.A.P. Jamadar, 2 N.C.Os. and 8 S.A.P. constables sustained simple injuries, as a result of the stone-throwing. The villagers brought some injured persons to Gingee leaving the dead in the village itself. It has been ascertained as a result of enquiry on the spot that 7 persons died in the village itself and 2 succumbed to the injuries after having been removed to Gingee, resulting, on the whole, in 9 deaths. Sixteen other villagers have been injured but 4 of them have sustained only slight injuries.

"Immediately on receipt of information about the incident on the 30th night, the Collector arranged for the Sub-Collector and the Assistant Superintendent of Police, who were camping at Tindivanam to proceed to Gingee and arrange for the medical attention of the injured persons. The Medical Officer at Gingee happened to be away, and medical assistance from Villupuram and Cuddalore had to be rushed which reached the scene at 9 a.m. on the 31st. Patients who sustained severe injuries were removed to the Cuddalore Headquarters Hospital where they are undergoing treatment.

"The Collector and the District Superintendent of Police are on the spot enquiring into the matter. The Collector is satisfied that the Sub-Magistrate had no other option but to order fire in sheer self-defence in the dangerous situation he, the Customs party and the Police officials were placed."

11-30
a.m.

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID:—"Does it not appear from the statement just made by the Hon. Leader of the House that the Police have used force in excess of what is needed and therefore is it not just and fair on my part to demand an enquiry, preferably a public enquiry because *in camera* enquiries have not satisfied the public or the hon. Members of this House?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The Government are looking into the matter."

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN:—"Is it a fact that, after this indiscriminate firing resulting in the death of 9 persons and injury to 16 persons, no medical aid was rendered, that where it was possible to render aid, the aid was prevented, and that the people were not allowed to leave the village by bus or other conveyance to communicate with people outside?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not at all accept that there was indiscriminate firing. When the matter is under enquiry, I do not want to commit myself to a statement whether the firing was discriminate or indiscriminate. With regard to medical aid, there was some little delay. All possible steps were taken to rush medical aid."

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SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"May I know whether the Sub-Magistrate ordered the firing of blank shots before actual shooting?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"When an officer fell down and when a villager snatched his musket and fired a shot, the Sub-Magistrate found that the situation was becoming uncontrollable and had to order the opening of fire."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether the person who snatched away the musket was employed in the Customs Department before and had training in the use of musket?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I will give as much information as possible from what is available just now. We are expecting a further report from the Collector."

SRI M. KANNIAPPAN:—"சிலவர் அவர்களை, அந்த சம்பவம் நடந்த இடத்திற்கு எட்டசைப் அங்கத்தினர்களை அனுப்பி enquire செய்ய முடியுமா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member, who spoke in Tamil, wants to know whether the Government will send some Members of this House to enquire into the incident."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not know whether Members of this House are competent to hold enquiries in such delicate matters. It is better that the enquiry is left to officials."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I rise on a point of order, Sir. When Members of this House are appointed as Members of an enquiry committee, are they not competent to do their job properly?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The enquiry must be done by either executive officers or judicial officers. Members of this House, I think, are neither executive officers nor judicial officers. They have not got either executive power or judicial power."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Is it not a fact that, when the Legislature appoints Members of this House to be members of an enquiry committee, they will have both executive and judicial powers?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"They will have all powers to do all things."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"When the Police officials rushed to the scene fully armed, could they not have anticipated serious trouble and taken an ambulance van with them?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Every time they go to a scene of trouble, they need not apprehend serious

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trouble. They did not think that they would be ordered to open fire. An ambulance car is not a necessary concomitant of every Police visit."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" Have we to take it that, under the benign Government of Kumaraswami Raja Sahab, people are shot down like dogs in the streets and is it not a standing stigma on the Government and officials if they behave like this in all such incidents? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The hon. Member is expressing his opinion and not eliciting information. Therefore I do not propose to answer the question."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO :—" What was the cause for the delay in rendering medical aid? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The medical officer at Gingee was not readily available. He was away on camp."

SRI P. NATESAN :—" After all this firing, have the smuggled goods been recovered from the culprits? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" As I said, in the first raid the Customs party recovered some contraband articles. In the second raid, this incident happened."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know whether it was not incumbent on the Police to ascertain the actual position in the village before taking as many as fifty police fully armed for controlling the situation? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is essentially a matter for the Customs authorities. They had information that contraband articles valued at about Rs. 30,000 were kept concealed in the village, and wanted to seize them. They requisitioned the services of the S.A.P. men and the Police went only to aid them."

JANAB M. S. ATAULLAH :—" May I know whether the warning was given and the people asked to clear out before fire was opened? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The Collector went and enquired into the matter. In the preliminary report he says that he is satisfied that the Sub-Magistrate had no other option but to order fire in sheer self-defence. That shows that all the necessary things were done."

SRI B. S. MURTHY :—" Was it necessary to fire 30 rounds to disperse a crowd of 200 people resulting in the death of 9 people and injury to 16 and was this not indiscriminate shooting? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not know whether I can answer that question straightway. The whole matter is being looked into by the District Collector and the District Superintendent of Police. It is for them to say whether thirty rounds were necessary or not and not for me to say from here."

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SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA :—" Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether measures less severe than firing, like lathi charge and throwing a cordon round the place to prevent the people from obstructing the officers discharging their duty, were taken? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I feel that the hon. Member did not listen to the long statement that I read out. An officer fell down, a villager snatched his musket and fired a shot. In such a situation I suppose lathi charge would not have been of any use."

JANAB N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR :—" When there was a deliberate encirclement of a particular house and the whole village rose to a man against the officials, ordinary commonsense should have suggested that, if the worst came to the worst, tear-gas would have sufficed the purpose. But where officers have resorted to this brutal massacre, is it not in the interests of the Government that they themselves come forward and order a judicial enquiry to allay panic among the public and at the same time create a sense of responsibility among officers who have taken the law into their own hands and destroyed the confidence of the people? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" A series of assumptions and presumptions have been put into the question and I do not know whether I can answer it."

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—" Is the Hon. Leader of the House aware that the firing was indiscriminate and widespread as the casualties were not only among the people near the house but also among the people in the far-off bus stand? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I take it as the opinion of the hon. Member."

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG :—" May I know whether the Government enquired where the nine persons who died were standing at the time of opening fire? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We are awaiting further reports from the Collector and the District Superintendent of Police who are enquiring into the matter. I do not think I can take the question any further."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The crowd was about 200 strong and the report does not say that the crowd was armed. When there were 50 armed police against an unarmed crowd of 200, where was the need to open fire? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I have given all the available information and surmises can be drawn. But we are awaiting reports from our officers and I do not think I can take the question any further."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—" Why did not the Police have recourse to tear-gas instead of to shooting all at once? "

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matters may be obtained in order that they may decide on a judicial enquiry to find out first whether the mob was armed with dangerous weapons, secondly, where these nine persons were standing when they were shot, and thirdly, whether any warning was given. Did anybody snatch away the musket? In the enquiry the Government should get all the information."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" Sir, I rise on a point of order. These supplementary questions are in the nature of a cross-examination. When the case is proceeding and the accused are going to be defended, is it proper for anybody to put these questions to the Government? By answering these questions, the Government may be involving the accused. The Government cannot escape from that position. In the interests of justice . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is not *sub judice*. The hon. Member himself wanted to put a number of supplementary questions, but he says that others should not put supplementary questions." (Laughter.)

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" It is *sub judice*, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" No."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" When once the police report is made and the police have investigated the matter—I believe I am following the decisions of the Madras High Court—*sub judice* stage commences. *Sub judice* stage commences from the cognizance of the case being taken by the police. When investigation starts, it is *sub judice*; I believe, it will be embarrassing to the police investigating officer, if supplementary questions are thrashed out here by way of cross-examination of the Treasury Benchers who cannot be expected to answer these questions. The Hon. the Leader of the House has read the report he has received. This report, which has been given to the Government, cannot be expected to be full or complete. I think it is highly unfair and unjust to put these supplementary questions."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Let me tell the House that it is not *sub judice*. Apart from this, I have allowed twenty minutes for this question."

JASAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—" I want to make a submission, Sir. I do not want to embarrass the Government but I want to impress upon the Government the necessity of holding a judicial enquiry. You may, therefore, be pleased to allow a half-hour debate on this."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Sir, even if a half-hour debate is given, I would not be in a position to say anything more than what I have said, because I have given to the House all the information available. We have not kept back anything from the House. We are awaiting reports from the Collector and the District Superintendent of Police. No useful purpose will be served by allowing Members to speak further on this at this stage."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" Let me tell the House that I have wrongly said that 20 minutes were given for this question. I have actually allowed 25 minutes for this question. I cannot, therefore, allow a half-hour debate."

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

II.—GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION.

LEGISLATION FOR LEVY OF ESTATE DUTY IN RESPECT OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, I withdraw the Resolution."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Under rule 122 of the Assembly Rules, the Hon. Minister wants to withdraw the Resolution. The rule says—

2. (1). A member in whose name a resolution appears on the list of business shall, when called on, either—
(a) withdraw the resolution, in which case he shall confine himself to a mere statement to that effect."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, I wish the Hon. Minister makes a statement. Every party in its manifesto has been talking about the estate duty. This Government actually moved it in the other House. This House deserves a statement why the Resolution is not moved; whether it is good or bad, it does not matter."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I cannot force the Hon. Minister to make a statement, when he is not willing to make one."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I do not ask the Chair to force the Hon. Minister."

* SRI P. NATESAN :—" Sir, even though it is the Hon. Minister himself who has sponsored this Resolution, has he got the right to simply withdraw it without making a statement? Having given so much publicity to this motion, is it right or is it in order to withdraw it now without making any statement?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" May I inform the House, Sir, that the rule only says 'make a mere statement to that effect', that is, withdrawing, and nothing more."

* SRI P. NATESAN :—" A statement must be made giving the reasons why this Resolution is withdrawn. So much publicity has been given that people were made to understand that a certain Resolution would be coming up for discussion on a certain date. The Hon. Minister cannot really withdraw the Resolution without giving reasons."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" I should like to make a submission to you, Sir, on this very important matter, which the Hon. the Revenue Minister has placed before this House. He is placing the fact for the information of the House it may be—that the Government have, after mature

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consideration, come to the conclusion that they are not to proceed with the Estate Duty Bill for the obvious reason that the public are not happy over this, and that there is opposition in this House as there was in the other House to this legislation. So, it is only in the fitness of things that he makes a reasonably worded statement showing the reasons which impelled him to reconsider this matter. I, however, offer my congratulations to the Government on having come to the conclusion that estate duty on land, as such, is not necessary."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Please do not go into the merits of the question."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"When the Hon. Minister withdraws a Resolution on an important matter like this, would it not be possible for him to speak on the motion? Because, it is almost a motion. Though he does not make a statement, he is taking the leave of the House for not moving the Resolution. Inasmuch as there was opposition to this legislation, and in view of the fact that he has threatened the House already that he is likely to make this motion, is it not tantamount to a technical withdrawal of this Resolution, if it is withdrawn without any statement?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"He is not moving it. That is what he meant."

* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"When he says 'not moving it', is it not open to hon. Members to express their opinion one way or the other? There may be some Members who may say that the Government are wrong in having moved this Resolution. I myself am one with these Members. The majority of Members feel like me that this is not the opportune time to move this Resolution. We congratulate the Government on what they have done. But there may be some other hon. Members who may feel that it is wrong on the part of the Government to have moved this Resolution in the other House and not to have moved the Resolution here, and we should be given the opportunity to know their reasons."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I think all the discussion that has taken place is absolutely needless. I have not moved this Resolution. It is not a Bill. Hon. Members are talking about a Bill which is non-existent. It is only a Resolution that I proposed to move, and to-day, I say that, under rule 122 of the Assembly Rules, I withdraw the Resolution. Where is the need for a statement?"

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, am I not entitled, as the Leader of the House, to delete that item altogether from the agenda?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes. The Hon. Minister can, under rule 64 of the Assembly Rules; move that the House pass on to the business next in order."

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"While ordering the agenda of the House in consultation with you, Mr. Speaker, can I not delete an item from the agenda altogether?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister is not moving that motion."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, the Hon. Mr. Madhava Menon's interpretation of the words 'statement to that effect' has taken my breath away. The Hon. Mr. Madhava Menon knows English, and he also knows the meaning of the words 'statement to that effect'. He is also the Minister in charge of Education. So far as I know, a statement must be made, apart from the fact that the Resolution is withdrawn. I expect, therefore, the Hon. Minister to make a statement, and give reasons for his not moving the Resolution."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"May I make a submission to you, Mr. Speaker? The Hon. Minister is perfectly right when he says that he does not propose to move the Resolution. But has leave of the House been given? I want to know whether he is going to move this Resolution at all on some day this session or later. That is an important point."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Sir, rule 122 of the Assembly Rules imposes upon me an obligation. I cannot say more than 'I withdraw the Resolution'. This Resolution was introduced in the Council, and it was discussed there. When I propose not to move this Resolution here, where is the necessity for me to make a statement? So far as the Resolution stands, as at present, the only statement that can be made is 'I withdraw the Resolution', and nothing more. That is what the rules framed for the conduct of legislative business require."

III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

THE MADRAS RYOTWARI (ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Ryotwari (Additional Assessments) Bill, 1951, and move under Rule 116 of the Madras Assembly Rules—

(1) That the concurrence of the Legislative Council be obtained in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 24 members to consider the Bill (16 members from the Assembly and 8 members from the Council); and

(2) That the following Members of the Assembly be nominated as Members of the Joint Select Committee:—

The Hon. Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja.

H. Sitarama Reddi,

A. B. Shetty,

B. Gopala Reddi.

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MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

That (1) the concurrence of the Legislative Council be obtained in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 24 members to consider the Bill (16 members from the Assembly and 8 members from the Council), and

(2) the following Members of the Assembly be nominated as Members of the Joint Select Committee :—

The Hon. Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja,

" H. Sitarama Reddi,

" A. B. Shetty,

" B. Gopala Reddi,

Sri P. R. Kandaswami Gounder,

" B. Ananthachar,

" N. S. Varadachari,

" G. Narasimha Rao,

" V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar,

" K. Rajaram Naidu,

" C. M. Kothari,

Janab M. S. Ataullah,

" Muhammad Raza Khan,

" M. S. Abdul Majid,

Sri B. S. Murthy, and

" M. P. Damodaran."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" On a point of order, Sir, Article 265 of the Constitution says, 'No tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law'. It is a well-known proposition, Sir. Although it is a well-known proposition, it was not found in the old Constitution. The result is that the land revenue in this State has been collected only by authority of executive orders and not by the authority of any legislation. There is no legislation now to continue under article 372 (1). There is a law which authorizes this Government or which enables this Government to follow certain procedure in the recovery of that tax."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Article 372 (1) refers to continuance in force of existing laws and their adaptation."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Yes, Sir, it is a well-known thing and I have referred to it. Under that Article, only laws which already exist will continue; laws which do not exist prior to January 1950 will not continue. And there was no law prior to January 1950 passed by the Legislature of this State at any time authorizing this Government to collect land revenue. Now the only Act which is in force is the Revenue Recovery Act. That is only an Act which describes certain methods or certain processes by which the revenue can be recovered. But it implies that the revenue should first of all be assessable by virtue of some

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law. In olden days, somehow or other, the Government thought that it was the prerogative of the State to collect land revenue. Olden books always stated that the Government were entitled to a 'Rajiya bhagam'. Then the Muslim rulers came and they thought that the land belonged to the State and, therefore, they were entitled to collect land rent. Then the East India Company came and somehow or other they thought that they were successors to previous Governments and that they were entitled to a share in the produce, i.e., *Rajiya bhagam*. But it was all done under that accustomed notion of the executive power over the people either because the executive thought that they had the power by virtue of being the executive or because as in the Muslim theory they thought that the land really belonged to the Government and not to the people. The Hindu jurisprudence has always held, and in India it has always been held, that the land belongs to the tiller of the soil and not to the State. Therefore, whatever may be the ryotwari theory,—whether this levy is a tax or a revenue,—the point is that there was no legislation authorizing the Government at any time to collect land revenue. As I submitted, the Revenue Recovery Act only shows how certain coercive processes can be applied by the Government in order to collect the public revenue. But there being no legislation at all to collect this public revenue, i.e., land revenue, any extra assessment or any surcharge upon such an invalid assessment is equally invalid, and that is my point of order."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, for two reasons there is no point of order in this case. In the first place, even if the hon. Member Sri Viswanatham's argument has any force, it can apply, as he says, only to the collection of *existing land revenue* which collection, according to him, is illegal because there is no law for that purpose. But, here there is no question of *existing land revenue* at all. We are trying to have a law for a new tax. Article 265 of the Constitution says that no tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law. It is that authority of law that we are asking for by this Bill for the collection of a tax."

"The hon. Member, Sri Viswanatham, says that for the collection of existing land revenue, there is no law. The question of existing land revenue is not before the House at all. A revenue is sought to be assessed on certain crops, and so it may be that a comparison of the existing land revenue is mentioned there. It may be an increase of the assessment or a comparison of the existing land revenue. Apart from that, law includes customary law also. Law need not necessarily be law of statute."

MR. SPEAKER :—" As in England."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Yes, Sir. Under the customary law, revenue has been collected for the last 200 years and we are collecting it even to-day under that law."

[Sri H. Sitarama Reddi] [3rd September 1951]

Sri P. R. Kandaswami Gounder,
„ B. Ananthachari,
„ N. S. Varadachari,
„ G. Narasimha Rao,
„ V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar,
„ K. Rajaram Naidu,
„ C. M. Kothari,

Janab M. S. Ataullah,
„ Muhammad Raza Khan,
„ M. S. Abdul Majid.

Sri B. S. Murthy, and
„ M. P. Damodaran.

12 noon. “ Sir, in moving the motion I would like to invite the attention of the House to the fact that the present rates of assessment on lands were fixed with reference to the net income likely to be derived if food crops were grown on them. The cultivation of commercial and plantation crops is always profitable, and the income derived is fairly high when compared with the cultivation of food crops. The index number of the wholesale prices for commercial products was 674 in January 1951 with the prices on 21st August 1939 taken as a base, whereas the corresponding index number for food crops in January 1951 was only 363. In the years between 1939 and 1951, the market value of some commercial crops has gone up greatly, in some cases as much as 10 times the pre-war level, and in the case of pepper, as much as 40 times the pre-war level. During settlements and re-settlements, a higher rate was not, however, levied on commercial crops or other valuable crops with the result that in the case of lands growing commercial and plantation crops, the assessment is now only a small proportion of the net income from the land. The Land Revenue Reforms Committee, whose second report was recently published, considered that these crops could very well afford to bear higher rates of assessment without any difficulty. The Committee also considered that the principle of progression should be introduced in the land revenue system by levying a greater surcharge on larger holdings paying an assessment of over Rs. 150, pending the introduction of agricultural income-tax. For the above reasons, and also in view of the present financial position of the State which makes it necessary to tap all available sources of revenue, Government decided to bring forward this measure for the consideration of this House. Government have also taken note of the opinions and comments that have already been expressed about this measure in the Legislature, Press, and outside. As a result of further deliberations, the Government propose to make certain important changes in the Bill and to bring up official amendments at the Select Committee

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stage to the Bill as now published. The most important of these is to drop the surcharge on holdings paying a tax above Rs. 150 per annum. The main reason for this deviation from the original Bill is the fact that this charge is supposed to be in addition to the standard assessments as finalized by the method recommended by the Subramanyam Committee. The Subramanyam Committee was of the view that there should be a standardization of the assessments with reference to the price levels of 1860-61 and 1904-05, and that with reference to the sliding scale of the price index the money rates for each year should be determined. The surcharge indicated by them for holdings over Rs. 150 was in addition to these standardized rates which were fixed in proportion to the level of prices. As the standardization of rates has not yet been examined, it is felt by Government that it will not be proper to introduce this additional surcharge on the large holdings till a decision on the principle is taken.

“ As regards the commercial crops, the Government have decided to make certain important reductions in the incidence of the tax and to remove certain kinds of crops altogether from the proposed new levy. Thus, the charge on betel vines, coconut, fruits of the citrus varieties, sugarcane, and turmeric, which were all to be sixteen annas in the rupee of the land revenue payable under clause 3 (2) (a) of the Bill, are now proposed to be reduced to twelve annas in the rupee. The charge on vineyards, onions and mangoes will be removed and the levy on plantains will be maintained at eight annas in the rupee. The charge on cotton will be removed, that on pepper and tobacco will be reduced from Rs. 10 per acre to Rs. 5 per acre, and the charge on cardamom, coffee and tea will be reduced from Rs. 3 per acre to Re. 1 per acre. The charge on groundnut of Re. 1-8-0 per acre will be removed from the Bill. It is proposed to introduce a levy on lands growing arecanuts at eight annas in the rupee.

“ The main object of these alterations is, as far as possible, to make the incidence of the charge less onerous to the agriculturist and to remove from the list certain products on which the charge is not worthwhile, because the extent is very small. The Government have also decided that a concession may be made in order to benefit small holdings. The concession is that in any holding, one-fourth of the area grown with the commercial crop will be exempt from charge subject to a maximum of three acres. It will be seen that this benefits the small holder. Clause 5 of the Bill gives the Government power to notify exemptions. This clause will give Government power to grant partial or total exemption when crops fail and also in the case of crops which yield only in the second year or only after a number of years. As we are referring this Bill to a Joint Select Committee, I need not go into further details and any suggestions made by the hon. Members will be considered in the Joint Select Committee and a report submitted to the House. I request the House to adopt my motion.”

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RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—"The Bill mentions 'additional assessments'."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"That only strengthens my case. The assessment is there being collected under the customary law and now it is sought to be varied. I may here point out, Sir, that entry 45 of the State List in the Constitution is, 'Land Revenue, including the assessment and collection of revenue'."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—"Sir, I submit that both Messrs. Viswanatham and Madhava Menon have not gone to the crux of the point. (Laughter.) They seem to think that laws alone give the Government power or existence. This Government have not come in by law and we have come in not by law. So, Governments do exist not merely by law."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"On a point of order, Sir, the hon. Member says the Government do not exist here by law. I object to it. We do exist by law."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—"Sir, after the Moghuls, the British came to occupy this country by conquest as successors. When the British have been sent out of this country, we have come in as their successors. So, all taxes that have been collected so far we inherit. The Government inherit all the powers which were wielded by the previous Government except those that have been given up by the Constitution or have been abandoned. I do not think this Government have abandoned the right to collect taxes. We inherit all the powers of the previous Government if this country and by virtue of that we exercise the right to collect taxes. Then, it may be altered from time to time and what the Hon. Minister has provided for is additional assessment. The point is the Hon. Sri Madhava Menon says, 'We are only asking for new taxes and not the old taxes.' That is the substance of the point. It is not on flimsy grounds that the Government exist to-day. We have a right to collect old taxes. At the same time, new taxes are not given up. Unless we specifically give up the right to collect taxes, I do not think we lose the right to continue the collection of old taxes, because we inherit the previous Government's powers."

MR. SPEAKER :—"What does the hon. Member Sri Viswanatham want to say about customary law?"

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Sir, the reference to it has come from an hon. Member of the Government who is a Law Graduate also."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—"Sir, do you want Sri Viswanatham to explain his point or may I say a few words?"

MR. SPEAKER :—"Yes, let me hear the hon. Member Sri Varadachari."

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*** SRI N. S. VARADACHARI** :—"Sir, the Article that the hon. Member, Sri Viswanatham, referred to is 265, which says that no tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law. Certainly I had occasion in this House to refer to this very Article when the Government revised the assessments in the City. At that time I pointed out that this Article debarred them, except by authority of law, that is to say, except by the consent of the Legislature, to enhance assessments in the City."

"Sir, to my mind, it seems that the wording 'no tax should be levied or collected except by authority of law' refers to taxes that are being levied from the date of the Constitution in the State. This land revenue is certainly levied by authority of law. It cannot be said that it is not levied by authority of law. The law on the subject was not a statute exactly in the old days, but it was something 'approaching a statute' which had the sanction of law and authority of law. Even during the budget debates, we only sanction the expenditure by votes. But certainly we are expected to know the revenues of the State, discuss and debate upon each item of revenue and even point out that certain revenue is not desirable and therefore need not be collected. We have the authority to vary or change the several taxes including the land tax, sales-tax, etc., that are levied by authority of law. Of course, land revenue is not a customary revenue as it was sought to be called. I strongly take exception to its being called a customary revenue. There is no custom involved there. The law itself has sanctioned the land revenue and the practice is continued. I do not call this as custom. There has been discussion on this point of land revenue now and then during the budget debates and the Legislature has sanctioned the various items of expenditure under that head. To-day, the Bill which seeks to add to the assessment already levied is certainly a new imposition and a new tax which was not authorized formerly. I think that is why the Government have come forward to the Legislature for sanction. In considering this tax, it is open to us to accept the addition or suggest subtractions therefrom and show to the Government that the tax that they levy is not a very fair one."

MR. SPEAKER :—"After hearing hon. Member Sri Viswanatham, I will give my ruling straightway."

*** SRI T. VISWANATHAM** :—"I am thankful to hon. Member, Sri Varadachari, for one thing. That is, he has effectively contradicted the Hon. Law Minister who has said that land revenue was a customary revenue. In fact, the term 'customary' is used in revenue parlance generally. But, I should point out that it has nothing to do with land revenue as such which the Government collect from the people, and which is called ryotwari assessment or other incidental revenue. He admits that there is no law. (Interruption.) I am referring to the Hon. Law Minister. From what he spoke, I took it that he admitted that there was no law on the point and that it was only customary revenue and therefore the Government had a right to collect it."

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"The other point was that it was suggested that budget sanction was sufficient. I submit that budget sanction is not law. We only sanction certain estimates of expenditure during budget debates, but it is not law. A law is only that which is brought forward in the form of a Bill and which goes through all the usual three stages and is passed into law. I submit therefore that there is no point in the Hon. Minister's contention that there is already a law. I submit that there is no law. I would like to point out that the Revenue Recovery Act gives certain coercive powers to the Government to collect public revenue. Public revenue is of different sorts. It must be sanctioned by law in the same manner as other public revenues like the water cess, irrigation cess, betterment levy or pound rent in the city, etc. Land revenue in itself is not sanctioned by law. Therefore the provisions of the Land Revenue Recovery Act do not help the Government in this matter. There was no law prior to January 1950 and there could therefore be no continuance of it after that date. Thus, when the original assessment itself is invalid, any surcharge upon that will also be invalid."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Sir, the question is whether this legislation is within the competence of the Legislature. I have already answered that point. Apart from that, I would very much like to draw the attention of the House to Article 372 (1) of the Constitution which says,

"Notwithstanding the repeal by this Constitution of the enactments referred to in article 395 but subject to the other provisions of this Constitution, all the law in force in the territory of India immediately before the commencement of this Constitution shall continue in force therein until altered or repealed or amended by a competent Legislature or other competent authority."

What is the 'competent authority' other than the Legislature? Revenue recovery in many cases is done by the Board of Revenue under certain proceedings of the Board which has certain powers in regard to this matter. So, it is the Revenue Board which is the 'competent authority' in this case, which can alter, repeal or amend a legislation. Thus, revenue is sought to be collected under law which is in force and the question of lack of authority of law does not arise here."

* **SRI T. VISWANATHAM:**—"The Hon. Minister referred to the Board of Revenue. I wish to point out that the Act under which the Board of Revenue was brought into existence did not authorize the Board of Revenue to impose land revenue."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Member, Sri Viswanatham, did not take me by surprise by raising this point of order. He has given previous notice to me that he intended to raise this point of order. Hence I have studied this question and have come to the conclusion, whatever view is held by the Government in regard to this, that the term 'law in force' used in Article 372 (1) means not only the written law, but also customary law. I therefore rule the point raised by hon. Sri Viswanatham as out of order."

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* **SRI T. VISWANATHAM:**—"Will the Government and this House tolerate such principle of 'customary law' in the case of *vetti* service due from Hill Tribes, etc.?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have already given my ruling in the matter."

* **RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:**—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while we are happy that the Government have reconsidered the position with reference to the commodities which are subject to the tax and while I am glad that they have left out one of the commodities and have reduced the rate with reference to certain other commodities, our objection to the manner of levying this tax still holds good. First of all, it is very unfair to this House that the Government should have made a reference to the Subramanyam Committee and certain suggestions of that Committee. They have picked out certain suggestions of that Committee and have incorporated them in this Bill. This House has not so far had an opportunity to discuss the report of that Committee. It is not fair to consider certain suggestions made here and there in that report. The questions of land revenue reform and standardization of rates are all very complicated and they require great consideration. The Hon. Revenue Minister in his statement has said that one of the reasons which compelled the Government to drop the additional assessment on land fetching over Rs. 150 is that they have yet to formulate standardized rates and the price level as recommended by the Subrahmanyam Committee with reference to the various areas. By extending that argument further, why not the Government drop the Bill entirely?"

"Then comes the question of the various crops. The Government have removed groundnut and cotton from the scope of the Bill on the ground that they are dry crops and that it is essential to show some encouragement to grow these crops. There are other crops, the growers of which may not get as much profit as the growers of groundnut and cotton. Take the case of rubber for instance. Any tax on rubber is absolutely unjustified. To-day, the rubber market is not flourishing. I am sure the Hon. Minister in charge of Revenue, who has an intimate knowledge of rubber industry, will agree with me that this industry has greatly suffered during the last 10 or 15 years. Though there were some good prospects in 1950-51, the position has worsened now. So, it would be unwise to think of any tax on rubber in the present circumstances and unfair to levy Rs. 1 per acre. The Government must reduce this rate."

"I am not objecting to other items as there is no use of doing so. In all probability the Bill will go through. I only wish to entreat the Government to think of accepting amendments at the Select Committee stage. I see that arecanut has been added."

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"With regard to tea and coffee, though the prices may be better now, the Committee has said that prices are coming down. So, the rates should be progressively lowered. However, I propose to leave the subject of tea and coffee to my hon. Friend Mr. Kothari who has an intimate knowledge of that industry.

"Coming to other crops, while I see that mangoes and onions have been included, I am unable to understand why plantains have also been included along with them. It must be understood that plantains are grown in one-acre, five-acre and quarter-of-an-acre compounds. How are the Government going to collect the tax in respect of plantains? I am sure there will be administrative difficulty. Further, in the present state of acute food shortage, people are resorting to eating plantains as an alternative food. My submission is that it will be better if plantains are omitted.

"I shall not deal with the rest of the crops. Certain consequential amendments are necessary in regard to them and they may be considered by the Hon. Revenue Minister at the Select Committee stage. For instance, provision has been made for the levy of a special assessment on certain commercial crops, the rates of assessment for which vary from 6 to 16 annas in the rates of the current assessment and in the case of certain other crops, the rates of assessment vary from Re. 1 to Rs. 10 per acre. I request these rates may be suitably amended so that one may be in consonance with the other.

"Sir, I should also like that the provision relating to notification of further commodities should be deleted. If any further commodities are to be added on, let the Government bring forward an amending Bill in respect of those commodities and let them not bring those commodities under the scope of this Bill by a notification.

"With regard to the rule-making powers of the Government, I wish that the Government should come before this House with a proper Resolution instead of publishing those rules in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and thus satisfy themselves."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member Raja Muthiah Chettiyar has raised a very important point. I wish to tell this House something about these rules. These rules are called 'delegated legislation'. In England, this 'delegated legislation' exists in an abundant measure. The Lord Chief Justice of England, Lord Hewart, has written a book entitled 'New Despotism'. A question arose in the House of Commons regarding the powers of the Ministers in the field of 'delegated legislation', and a Committee known as the Donoughmore Committee was appointed to go into the question. They came to the conclusion that Parliament can authorize Government to make rules; but they stressed the fact that those rules should be brought before the House for their consideration.

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"Professor Dicey in his book 'The Law of the Constitution', 12-30 p.m. says:

"It is futile for Parliament to endeavour to work out the details of large legislative changes. Such an endeavour only results in cumbersome and prolix statutes and the evil is so apparent that in modern times Acts of Parliament constantly contain provisions empowering the Privy Council or one of the Ministers of Crown to make regulations under the Act for the determination of details which cannot be settled by Parliament."

"In fact this point struck me at the time of last session. I was for the appointment of a Committee of this House to go into the question. But it was published in the papers that the Union Parliament was considering the same question at that time and in April last, Parliament appointed a Committee called the 'Rules Committee'. After careful consideration the Committee has arrived at certain conclusions.

"They say that these delegated legislations should be brought before the House.

"Fortunately I have the minutes of the Rules Committee, dated the 24th April 1951. For instance Rule 207 regarding 'Subordinate Legislation' lays down:

"Each 'regulation', 'rule', 'sub-rule' or 'bye-law', etc., framed in pursuance of the legislative functions delegated by Parliament to a subordinate authority and which is required to be laid before Parliament, hereinafter referred to as 'order' shall subject to such rules as the Speaker may in consultation with the Leader of the House prescribe, be numbered centrally and published in the *Gazette of India* immediately after they are promulgated and numbered."

"Rule 208 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Parliament says:

- (i) whether it is in accord with the general objects of the Act pursuant to which it is made;
- (ii) whether it contains matter which in the opinion of the Committee should more properly be dealt with in an Act of Parliament;
- (iii) whether it contains imposition of taxation;
- (iv) whether it directly or indirectly bars the jurisdiction of the court;
- (v) whether it gives retrospective effect to any of the provisions in respect of which the Act does not expressly give any such power."

"I think that we should also have to change our rules. But, elections are fast approaching. That is why I am hesitating to proceed further in the matter."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"What if?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Anyhow I have no objection if all the hon. Members are for the appointment of a Committee now to go into the question. Suppose we appoint a Committee to change our rules. They will submit their recommendations after one or two months. As the elections are fast approaching I think we can safely leave it to the new legislature.

"In this connexion I want to mention to the hon. Member Raja of Chettinad that Mr. Carr, Legal Adviser to the Speaker of the House of Commons, has written a book called 'Delegated Legislation'. It is a very good book and contains a lot of useful details. I would recommend to the hon. Members to go through that book."

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* RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am indeed very grateful to you, for your kind observations. The whole House should be grateful to you. Not only this House but all those interested in democracy will be grateful to you for the pains you are taking in seeing that the ‘delegated powers’ with regard to this rule-making are exercised in a proper manner.

“ Sir, time and again, this question of rule-making has been raised on the floor of the House and at the Select Committee meetings. But whenever the cry was raised, we were told that matters would be set right during the Select Committee stage. Ever since 1937 it has been our sincere desire that this rule-making clause is strictly adhered to by our Ministers. But, Sir, it is really very unfortunate that the Government have not found it possible to accept the suggestion that the rules that are to be framed should be placed *before the House* for their consideration and approval. No doubt the Committee on Rules of Procedure, that you have advocated, would be very helpful.

“ I want to make one submission, Sir. Now that elections are to come within a few months, I suggest that a Committee on Rules and Procedure be appointed to go into the question whether Government are properly adhering to the rule-making clause and whether any deviation has occurred. Let the Committee go into all these questions and submit their recommendations to the *new legislature* that is going to be formed as a result of the coming elections. I think that would be a *via media* policy. I do sincerely hope that the Revenue Minister would be willing to accept this suggestion.

“ Lastly I want to express my appreciation for the clear elucidation that you have given in respect of this rule-making clause and indeed the people of the Province should be grateful to you, Sir, for the perseverance with which you are working to see that these legislative enactments, which determine the public life of the country, are carried out in the proper manner.

“ Coming to the Bill under discussion, Sir, I want to make an amendment. Under sub-clause (5) of Clause 5 it has been laid down :

“ All rules made under this section shall be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and upon such publication shall have the effect as if enacted in this Act.” I request the Government to seriously consider amending it in the following manner :—

“ All rules made under this section shall be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and upon such publication shall be placed before the *Legislative Assembly* for approval.”

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to protest against the measures that have been proposed by the Government for taxation at this time. The economic conditions are not at all bright for any Government to come forward with additional proposals for taxation. It has been laid down in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill that certain paragraphs in the Report of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee

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have been taken into consideration. The Government have on a previous occasion told the House that they have not fully considered the report of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee. When such is the case I see no meaning in the Government, acting on certain paragraphs of the report of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee, bringing forward this proposal for additional taxation. If the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue refers to the very first principle of land revenue assessment, he will find :

“ The assessment shall be on the land and shall not depend upon the description of produce.”

From the year 1788 to 1820, there had been a lot of discussion among the revenue gatherers in the State as to whether they should continue the then existing system of assessment known as crop-war tax. Prior to the ryotwari settlement in this State, there was what was called the crop-war tax. Taxes were then collected with reference to crops raised on the land and not with reference to the land on which they were raised. Contemporary records will show that this kind of assessment was beset with many difficulties. Just as our present Controls have led to corruption, this crop-war tax also led in those days to a lot of corruption. It led to harassment of the innocent man by those in authority. Therefore, Sir, after great and elaborate enquiries, the Government of the day came to the conclusion that the tax should be related only to the land and not to the produce raised. In the first instance, this was taken up as an experimental measure and after nearly twenty-five or thirty years of the working of this experiment the Government came to the final conclusion that it was always in the interests of the peasantry, in the interests of the increased prosperity of the tenants, to have land revenue fixed in relation to the land and not to the produce raised. That is the reason why no tax is imposed for second crop on dry lands. This is how the system of crop-war tax was abolished and the lands came to be classified generally as wet and dry lands.

“ Of course, there are a few cases of what are called garden rates, particularly in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara. I do not know why the Hon. the Minister has not excluded Malabar and South Kanara from the purview of this Bill, especially when the Land Revenue Reforms Committee has made a recommendation to that effect. Malabar and South Kanara, as you know, Sir, pay higher rates because their rates are related to the description of the produce, which is not the case with the rest of the State. Garden rates are higher than the ryotwari rates. If the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue has such great consideration for the Land Revenue Reforms Committee, he should have also paid some little respect to the recommendation made by them that Malabar and South Kanara should be excluded from the purview of any Bill seeking revenue by way of additional taxation or surcharge on commercial crops. Whether I agree with their proposal to surcharge income from commercial crops or not, the fact remains that they have recommended exemption in the case of Malabar and South Kanara. I hope at least at the Select Committee stage, the two districts will be omitted altogether from the Bill.

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"Sir, I have deviated from the original point. I was on the question whether land should be divided as wet and dry only. Sir, the Government came to the conclusion that in the interests of increased efficiency and increased production and the happiness of the tenantry, there should be assessment on the basis of the value and nature of the land. As a matter of fact, the fertility of the soil comes into play in the fixing of the tharam. It depends upon not only the description of the crops but certainly it has relation to the value and fertility and also the capacity of the land to bear the tax. If the Hon. the Minister is only interested to know, he will find that lands are often assessed for more than what their value in fertility and capacity would permit. Let us take the dufassal crops. Taxation has gone high in their case. I feel such lands should not be required to bear the burden of extra taxation. The Government now demand half of the net value of produce. The ryot has been suffering because, in deducting the cultivation expenses, the money value of the labour put in by him and other incidental factors are not taken into consideration. Although it is said that the share of the Government represents only half of the net produce, it really amounts to much more because the several factors like labour put in by the ryot and his family and his cattle which I have mentioned just now do not come into the picture while determining the cultivation expenses. Only the ordinary out of pocket expenses are taken into account. The tenant thus pays a heavy revenue and, therefore, it is not right for the Government to levy a surcharge in these areas. As I have already submitted, Sir, commercial crops like sugarcane, etc., are already taxed heavily. And where water is supplied by the Government, heavy water cess is also collected. I admit this has got some relation to the land and the crop because a land which was originally dry is made to yield good returns by the tenant taking water to it for cultivation of particular crops. It is manured and the fertility of the soil increases. The extent to which the fertility of the land has increased and the kind of crop grown there are all factors that determine the water cess to be levied. Here, I would like to make mention of one fact. While the standard water rate is Rs. 5 in the State, it is Rs. 6-4-0 in West Godavari and in certain special tracts, it goes up to Rs. 14. With so many taxes thrust upon the agriculturist, dufassal rates, compounded water rates, etc., besides assessment—it is not fair now for us to impose this new tax on him.

"Then I shall come to another of the recommendations of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee. The Committee went into the question of 'tiller of the soil', 'economic holdings', etc. As regards the economic condition of the tenants in this State, I suppose they have not painted a very rosy picture. It may be there are some rich farmers here and there. The fact that there are a few big owners of land in the State I suppose makes the Government feel that the tenantry on the whole is quite alright. It is these rich tenants that are always in public gaze. After all, if the entire land available for cultivation in the State

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is distributed among the tenant population of this State which may be forty per cent, each tenant may not get more than an acre and a half. If it is distributed among the entire population, it may not come to even three-fourths of an acre. Even as it is the average holding is not more than an acre and a half. Therefore the case of a few rich mirasdars in Tanjore or the few rich farmers in the deltaic areas of East and West Godavari and Krishna should not create prejudice in the mind of the Government and make them feel that all ryots, all ryotwari tenants, are in a position to pay the extra taxation.

"I would, in this connexion, congratulate the Hon. the Minister on the statement he made at the time of introduction of this Bill—though nothing was said about it at the time of publication of the Bill—that a fourth of the land under commercial crops would not come within—if I may say so—the mischief of this Bill. I am glad he has thought it fit to say so at least now. But, all the same the mischief is there, the limit of three acres. I submitted before you the other day, Sir, that in the case of persons owning three, four and five acres, the tenants have got a sort of plan of their own. The tenant has got a plan for cultivating his lands. After taking into account the market conditions, the demand of the year and the knowledge he gets from outside sources he plans his crop. He plans his wet and dry crop, the quantity, for instance, of sugarcane he should grow, the quantity of groundnut he wants. Here comes the question of one-fourth area being exempt from such surcharge. The measurement of the one-fourth area will be left to be done by the local man. Exemption will be granted on the advice of the person who makes the survey. I am afraid, Sir, such work will not be entrusted even to the Revenue Inspector but to the village karnam. The amount of harassment that will be caused to the ryot by the village karnam can be imagined. If the tenant does not pay the village officer something he requires—almost all men are needy and most of the Government servants are always in perpetual need—the report will go against the tenant. This provision will only help the Revenue Inspector and the village karnam to harass the tenants more.

"Sir, I want to mention the case of what is called *thirujasthi* in this connexion. There may be a Government tank from which the tenant takes water for his lands and he should pay water cess to the Government if crops are raised. There are tenants who are poor or who have not enough planning and, therefore, leave their lands fallow. There are those who grow a little due to lack of knowledge of market conditions. Then the village karnam comes and if, he is not propitiated, he says in his report, 'three acres of land under paddy, three acres under sugarcane' and so on. The owner of the land sometimes lives away from his land. He does not know what the village karnam has written. The karnam does not tell the owner what he has written in his books. It is only at the end of the year that the demand for extra tax comes. He at once runs up to the karnam and asks 'What is this demand for? I have not grown anything'. He

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coolly replies, 'when I visited the lands. I saw something green in your fields. Something was there; now it is not green but then it was green.' All the tenant's cries prove to be of no avail before the village karnam and thus he is unable to withstand the onslaughts of the village officer. Of course, there are persons with a compromising conscience who escape such assessment by paying something to the village karnam according to his dignity. At once the village karnam writes 'no crops grown and no water cess this year.' I am pointing out all this to show how much the owner of a small land will be harassed because of this seemingly good provision for exemption of one-fourth area.

"My suggestion is not that exemption should not be given. The land is already subject to heavy assessment. It may be argued of course that sugarcane growers get Rs. 1,000 per acre and so they can well afford to pay this extra taxation. I admit they should pay and that is why I have suggested agricultural income-tax at a higher rate on a larger holding. Why not we have a Bill for the levy of agricultural income-tax? The bigger landlords can engage clerks and accountants to maintain accounts. In my own district, Sir, after the introduction of the Sales Tax, merchants are engaging clerks, accountants and chartered accountants to verify their accounts. The landlords can afford to have such staff and the Government can very well have an agricultural income-tax imposed on them. I advocate this because it will be on a different footing altogether. Surcharges either with reference to the existing land revenue or the acreage will only lead to further burden or further troubles and harassment of the tenants.

1 p.m. "An hon. Member referred to some powers delegated to Government and you, Sir, were good enough to refer to the Donoughmore Committee regarding delegated legislation. If I may say so, without any sense of vanity, I may draw your attention to the fact that for the last three and a half years, down from the date when the Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao introduced his most despotic legislation—or a good legislation with despotic powers—I have been referring to this delegated legislation. Even last year, when we were discussing the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, I had to refer on several occasions to this report and I had to read out extracts therefrom. Whether it is the first session or the last session, it does not matter."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I may inform the hon. Member that it is not possible to change the rules before the next sitting."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"If it is not possible, Sir, all the preliminary things can be gone through. I only request you, Sir, to do all that is necessary. In England, they have got what is known as the Statutory Instruments Act. This difficulty of delegated legislation did not arise in England only. The United States of America had also a similar committee and similar legislation. Of course England opened its eyes only when the Chief Justice Lord Hewart drew the attention of the Government to this. In the United States of America also there was a Committee

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known as Attorney-General's Committee on administrative procedure, and there they had passed a legislation based on its recommendations. Subsequent to this only, England passed the Statutory Instruments Act. You are also aware of it, Sir, and the Speakers' Conference has also taken note of it. An hon. Member was pointing out that the rules might be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and they might be laid on the table of the House. Of course, the Hon. Minister might point out that in sub-clause (4) of clause 6, there is a provision to the effect that the power to make rules shall be subject to the condition of previous publication. The condition of previous publication is altogether different from the condition of laying for approval on the table of the House, affirmative or negative.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I may tell the hon. Member that rules can be made to authorize the Committee of our House to go through the Rules made by Government—even those that are not placed before the House."

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matters, a default also is being made an offence. They want to make a provision like that, not under any legislation but under rule-making powers. Even such a rule is only previously published and not positively approved according to the Bill. I need not say that this is very objectionable and if I have got command of language I would have used very strong language."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" You have got command of language."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The Hon. Minister says that I have got command of language; but he has got command of the provisions. There is clause 7, which deals with the power to remove difficulties. What does this provision say? It says :

"If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, as occasion may require, by Order, do anything which appears to them necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty."

"I have explained the implications of every word of this obnoxious section which finds a place in every bit of legislation. Of course, it was found in the old Acts. This is what the Hon. Law Minister says often. All the bad things are being imitated by the Government. I submit, Sir, that clause 7 must go in toto, because the Government should not have this power. If any difficulty arises—the difficulty may or may not arise—the Government can do what they can as the occasion may require and pass an order which may not see the light of day.

"There is only one more point, and that is with reference to clause 5. Under that clause, the Government have taken powers of exemption. They might turn round and say : 'If injustice is done, shall we not use our discretion in exempting either persons or lands from extra taxation?' They may I submit that the limits of those exemption must be specified in the Statute itself. It should not be left to the sweet will and pleasure of the Executive. I certainly desire that in hard cases the Government must have the power to exempt but exemptions must be subject to statutory limits. The statutory limits cannot come into play if you simply say : 'The State Government may by notification and subject to such restrictions and conditions as may be specified therein, exempt . . .'. The Hon. Minister, while introducing the Bill, said that these exemptions will generally be granted when crops failed and also in the case of crops which yield only in the second year or only after a number of years. Why not the Government say so in the Bill itself? In taxation measures, you cannot give bald power to the executive to exempt persons. I submit, it is wrong in principle. It offends against equal application of laws to everybody. The law must be applicable to every one. The principle of equality before law goes immediately the Government takes to itself such undefined powers of exemption. The powers of exemption must be statutorily laid down. If what the Hon. Minister for Revenue said are all the conditions under which exemptions will be granted, let him say so, so that the executive might not go beyond those statutory limits. I have no opposition

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to the power of exemption altogether but it must be under statutory limits. These are the points which I beg to place before the House for their consideration."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to protest against the introduction of this Bill for a number of reasons. Before I go into the reasons, let me draw your attention to the despotic power which the Government have taken, namely, the power to notify any other crop for the purpose of the Act. A dangerous discrimination between food and commercial crops is for the first time made in this country and the Congress Party is very uncharitable to the agriculturists. They have not taken into consideration the fight put up for the agriculturists for the last 300 years. I refer to the late Pandit Motilal Nehru's fight in the Legislative Assembly for the agriculturists. I refer also to the fights which Mahatma Gandhi put up for the agriculturists. What have the poor agriculturists done now to be told that for growing commercial crops additional assessments would be levied. Sir, the commercial crops are more or less raw materials for the industries. Is it fair to the industries, Sir, that these commercial crops are to be taxed? Industries are already heavily taxed through income-tax, sales-tax, etc. At every stage they are taxed. If additional assessments are levied on coconut, the price of coconut will go up and the additional cost will be transferred to the consumer. Similarly for tea and coffee, the consumers will have to pay more if extra taxation is levied on tea and coffee. Sir, the Hon. Minister for Revenue is also in charge of Labour. On the one hand he wants the minimum wages for the agricultural labourers to be increased and on the other hand he wants to tax the agriculturists. I find in the Bill that an assessment of three rupees per acre has been levied on coffee and tea estates. Recently the Hon. Commerce Minister of the Government of India was present at the annual meeting of the coffee and tea planters when the U.P.A.S.I. President proved to the hilt that the tea and coffee estates were taxed to the maximum limit and that the margin of profits were very small.

"Under these conditions is it fair to tax an industry which is employing 150,000 people of this State. What will happen if these industries suffer as a result of the taxation? Unemployment will follow and it will be to the discredit of this Ministry to have contributed to this unemployment. I can produce before this House facts and figures which will prove that some of these coffee and tea estates are even now running on uneconomic levels. These are the industries which have been giving employment to so many people of this State and is it not fair that they should be allowed to exist instead of the industries being taxed heavily by the Centre as well as by the State?

"Sir, I have only to make one point in respect of the speech of the Hon. Minister for Revenue and it is in connexion with what he talked about index of cost of living or the index of production and the profit the labourer or the agriculturist is getting. May I draw his attention to the fact that these are fallacious in this way

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coolly replies, 'when I visited the lands. I saw something green in your fields. Something was there; now it is not green but then it was green.' All the tenant's cries prove to be of no avail before the village karnam and thus he is unable to withstand the onslaughts of the village officer. Of course, there are persons with a compromising conscience who escape such assessment by paying something to the village karnam according to his dignity. At once the village karnam writes 'no crops grown and no water cess this year.' I am pointing out all this to show how much the owner of a small land will be harassed because of this seemingly good provision for exemption of one-fourth area.

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day, when people have no food to eat and when the Government are not in a position to give food to the people, when casuarina firewood is selling at Rs. 1-12-0 and Rs. 2 per *gundu*, is it possible for the people to live? When such is the position brought about by the Government, how can the people bear any further tax, I ask? The other day we were talking about the provision of *kanchi thotties* for poor people. In these modern civilized days what would the people of other countries think of this country when we talk of such things here? They must be thinking that there are only naked and starving millions in this great country. It will have only this reaction on them. Now the less we disclose about these things to the outer world the better it will be for us. Instead of thinking about starting gruel-centres or *kanchi thotties* for the people, it would be better if the Government think of giving better food for the people and to see that they are not taxed so heavily."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid it is most unwise on the part of the Government to introduce this measure at the fag-end of the term of this House. I find this legislation is inopportune and premature. I do not know why the Government, before the proposals of the Planning Commission had been accepted by this House, before the Government had made up their mind whether they are to act on the proposals, have thought it necessary to bring forward this Bill for further taxation. Again, the report of the Land Reforms Committee has not been discussed generally by this House. That being so what is the necessity for the inordinate haste on the part of the Government to impose this fresh tax? The Hon. Revenue Minister said that the growing of commercial crops was most profitable at the present time and that some of them were yielding 30 per cent more. It may be so in the case of certain crops like tobacco and chillis but not so with regard to many other commercial crops. I feel that the Government are not at all justified in imposing fresh taxation on rubber, tea and coffee. So far as rubber is concerned, the Hon. Minister might be aware that this industry was not well off for the past many years. It is only recently, after the increase in the price of rubber, that this industry has been able to show up its head to a little extent. When the price of rubber is fixed at a higher level in other countries like Ceylon and Malaya, the Central Government had unnecessarily kept it down in this country with the result that the industry has been suffering here, as the hon. Member Sri Kothari knows, on account of this low price. The Hon. the Revenue Minister may himself be aware that there are many rubber plantations that have not been able to pay a dividend for the last several years. When an industry has been in such a state of collapse is it justifiable on the part of the Government to impose taxation on such an industry? Of course you can impose taxation on industries which can bear the burden but not on industries which have been in a state of collapse.

"I will continue after lunch."
The House then rose for lunch.

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(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin will continue her speech."

(At this stage, the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I was referring to the tax that is sought to be imposed on rubber. The rubber industry to-day is in such a plight that the proposal of the Government to levy further taxation on rubber, I am afraid, is not at all justified. The Hon. Minister himself must be aware of the fact that the price of rubber has been artificially kept down all these years and even today, although the price has been raised a little, it has not been raised to the level that is obtaining in other countries. The cost of production has increased enormously, particularly in respect of labour and many of the rubber estates are not making any profit at all. Such being the case, the Government are not at all justified in imposing further levies on these estates. There may be some old estates that are able to declare dividend. But, some estates have been started only ten years back and they are not able to declare any dividend. I, therefore, feel, Madam, that the Government are not at all justified in imposing further levies.

"Then, Madam, coming to the taxation that is intended to be imposed on tea, coffee and plantains, I would again say that the Government are not at all justified. These articles are already taxed to the hilt and consequently their costs of production have enormously increased. Apart from those considerations, the consideration that should weigh most with the Government to-day is how to provide food for the people. At the present time, tea and coffee are substitutes for food for large numbers of people on account of the fact that they are not able to get enough rice. Therefore, it is most inadvisable on the part of the Government that, at a time when, the food situation is so acute and when tea and coffee have become good substitutes for food for large numbers of people, they should have come forward with fresh levies on these articles. Even in the case of plantains, the poor people are at present paying nine pies for each plantain and this additional taxation will be passed on to the consumer who will have to pay more. Plantain also has become a sort of food for the people in these days. I understand that the Government are importing date fruits from foreign countries. Instead of encouraging their growth in this country, the Government are giving a set-back to the production of articles which have become good substitutes for food. I think it is most inadvisable on the part of the Government to have included plantains also under the present levy. I do not understand, Madam, why the Government indulge in such state of confused thinking on these matters. On the one hand, they are importing date fruits from foreign countries; on the other hand, they are checking the growth of such nutritious articles of food as tea, coffee and plantains. I cannot understand why there is no planned system. I feel the Government are suffering from confused

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thought in regard to all these matters. Of course, the Government can very well levy fresh taxes on commercial crops like tobacco which is making the people smoke away their lives. It is not an article of food even. But, I find the Government have reduced the quantum of tax that is intended to be levied on tobacco. The idea of the Government seems to be to tax such articles which are of great food value to the people like tea, coffee and plantains. Let them increase the tax on tobacco tenfold, because the Government in the interests of the people are morally bound to restrict the use of tobacco. Besides, tobacco is no food; of course, it earns Dollar Exchange for our country. But, what is this Dollar Exchange for? The foreign exchange is required in order to feed the people in the first place, i.e., for importing more and more foodgrains. On the one side, we are trying to earn foreign exchange to import foodgrains; on the other side, the Government are bringing forward a legislation restricting the production of articles in this country which are of great food value to the people. The Government seem to be confused in these matters. Therefore, Madam, I am not at all in agreement with the provisions of this Bill because I feel it is too premature. The Government are not at all justified in bringing forward this legislation at the fag-end of the life of Legislature. The proposals and recommendations of the Planning Commission have not been accepted by the Government and by this House. The recommendations of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee have not been placed before this House and they have not been accepted to be implemented by the Government. Then, why should the Government be in a hurry to impose fresh levies, particularly on the eve of elections? I would, therefore, earnestly request the Government to drop this Bill and leave it for the future Legislature to take up the question if it deems it desirable.

"So far as the Bill is concerned, I wish to state that it contains a number of undesirable clauses. I find that in this Bill as in many other Bills that have been introduced in this House during the last four years, the Government have given themselves the *carte blanche* to do just whatever they like and whenever they like. This point has already been spoken on by my hon. Friend Mr. T. Viswanatham. For instance, clause 7 reads:

"7. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, as occasion may require, by order, do anything which appears to them necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty."

I know that the Government have passed legislations on the floor of this House previously. But, it is our duty on this side of the House to oppose such measures. The Government are not justified in asking for this *carte blanche*, Madam, clause 5 reads:

"5 (1) The State Government may, by notification and subject to such restrictions and conditions as may be specified therein, exempt in whole or in part—

- (a) any land from the levy of special assessment under section 3, sub-section (2), in respect of all or any of the crops specified thereunder; or
- (b) any class of registered holders from the levy of additional assessment under section 3, sub-section (3)."

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Why should the Government try to have such powers of exemption? Madam, the idea is to have more and more powers of patronage in their hands.

"Such this clause is most unjustified. If the Government desire to have such an exempting clause in their Bill, it is their duty to specify in the Bill the conditions and the limitations under which such exemptions can be given. They should not invest themselves with the power to do just as they like and exempt whomsoever they please. In an era of democracy, it is an autocratic form of legislation. In other countries where such Bills are introduced, even if exemptions are to be given, the conditions under which such exemptions are sought to be given are noted down. In this Bill, the whole idea is that the Government should have a whole-sale power to do just as they please, to exempt whomsoever they like and to impose their powers on whomsoever they like. This is most uncalled for. I would request the Honourable the Revenue Minister at the Select Committee stage to improve upon clause 5 by specifying the conditions under which these exemptions may be given and to delete clause 7 from the Bill altogether. With these words, I oppose the Bill and would request the Hon. Minister, in the first place, to drop the Bill altogether and, if he cannot do that, at least to make necessary amendments at the Select Committee stage."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, before going through the actual clauses of the Bill or endeavouring to analyse the taxation that is sought to be introduced in this Bill, I wish to raise a preliminary objection to the procedure followed in this House by the Government. The Government must respect the best traditions of Parliament. When it is laid down in the Constitution that the Lower House has power to initiate taxation, has power to pass the budget in all its details, the Government should always make it a convention—whether it is a resolution favouring Estate Duty, whether it is a Bill levying taxes on commercial crops or a betterment levy, all these should, in the first instance, be introduced in this House. I strongly object to the procedure which takes away the inherent right of this Assembly, which really represents the people of this State, of examining taxation laws in the first instance. It was very unfortunate that Government had not even heard this House on the resolution for the levy of estate duty in respect of agricultural land which they have sought to withdraw. I am not going to speak now on that resolution and the Government's most unwise step but, as a right procedure, I demand that in future on all occasions, whether it is this House or the House which will succeed it, even if it is a Second Chamber, all taxation laws should be initiated here, in the first instance."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"On a point of order, Madam . . ."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"Is the Hon. Member speaking on the Bill before the House or on the resolution?"

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SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I am not speaking on the resolution but I am speaking on a matter of general procedure."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"Why should the hon. Member refer to the resolution then?"

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I am as much interested as the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker in the rights of this House and I say the rights of this House have been abrogated."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"This is no occasion then to go into the merits of the resolution."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I am not going into the merits of the resolution. I am glad that in the first instance we have come to debate on this Bill in this House and I hope it will be so on every taxation measure that is sought to be introduced in this State."

"I object to Joint Select Committees being constituted on taxation measures. It is another matter of procedure which I seriously take to heart. Whatever the conveniences in a Joint Select Committee, convenience in piloting the Bill through, etc., on all taxation measures, I strongly object to the constitution of Joint Select Committees. This House has the inherent right to be consulted through its own committees in the first instance on such measures. We have too much of the Second Chamber mentality. I know it is reflected as a whole in this country and, as I said on another occasion, there is no fear of overdoing anything in this country, however revolutionary the programme may be on paper. I now come to this Bill after making these emphatic protests. I do not mind being dropped out of even a Select Committee of this House but I am prepared to see that I fight for the rights of this House. I am a zealous guardian of the rights of the House. ('Hear, hear.') If this House has more rights than the other House, this House has the right to be consulted in the first instance and the consultation should be solely of this House alone in a measure like this."

JANAB N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR:—"Perfectly right!"

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I leave it to the Hon. the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker to lay down the procedure for this House on such matters and I will come to the Bill itself. I am glad the Hon. Minister has made a statement. I have gone through the statement with care. The Government have sought to levy certain taxes in order to implement what they call their planned development for five years. Let us make sure that if the Government stick to their plan in all its details they also stick to every reasonable measure of taxation that will enable them to fulfil that plan. There is no use accepting a plan and then scrapping parts of the taxation measures as and when the Government have to face this House. It is a matter of policy. I do not for a moment say that everything that Government do should not be

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examined or is always right. Even on an examination, the Government should be able to convince the House that with the limited powers of taxation they seek, with the abridgment they propose to impose upon taxation which they have first sought to levy and with the withdrawal of certain measures of taxation with which they are not now reconciled, they will still obtain the same revenue with which they want to implement their plan. Then only I can understand all these changes. Of course, the main idea is to seek a permanent increase in the revenues of the State, not mere temporary expedients to be pursued for the moment. The Government may speak of an Estate Duty for five years but I know it cannot be changed at the end of five years. The Government speak of differential duties on commercial crops and that cannot change too for the very simple reason that Government's commitments in respect of expenditure are increasing every day. We already know the limitations of State finance. All means of indirect taxation are left to the Centre and the only means available to the State are direct taxation whether on land, whether on crop or whether on sales and earnings schemes which Government may sometimes choose or may sometimes deliberately avoid for reasons which they know best. It is difficult to find alternative sources of revenue. The only Member of this House whom I can understand in respect of this matter is Mr. P. Natesan who has consistently stood for a total withdrawal of prohibition and the addition of that revenue to the present revenues of the State including sales tax. No Government which wants to impose a tax is likely to remove it. Such surrenders are not to be expected even of Governments that may be formed from the opposition, for expenditure commitments once made are not likely to be withdrawn. That is the secret of State finance especially in this country. In the Centre there is room for much flexible operation and changing to alternative sources of revenue but in a State there is little room. State finance leaves no room for manoeuvring. The Government must take things as they are and aim at increased revenue if they want state expenditure to grow and State plans to be implemented. Now, I expected the Hon. Minister would be able to make a statement to this House as to the amount of revenue he would get from this measure of taxation. It is a serious drawback in the statement. When he has made certain changes, omitted groundnut and cotton, and reduced the levy on certain types of cash crops—I still refuse to call them commercial crops—the Hon. Minister ought to be expected to make a statement to the House showing the revenue he expected. I trust he would at least make this available to the Select Committee which is going to examine this Bill. A taxation measure like this ought to go through a careful scrutiny as once a tax is levied it is difficult to go back on it. I thoroughly agree with the slogan 'Let us hasten slowly' but let us not stand still and simply count the minutes. We should not forget the fact that every time the clock ticks the expenditure side of the State is constantly mounting. We want new schemes,

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we want new plans to be implemented and every Member is anxious to have irrigation, electricity and the like. How shall we get this done on a static finance? We must have a dynamic finance, a finance capable of being improved from time to time without hurting the earning capacity of the people. Industrialists, and Mr. Kothari represents them in this House, complain that they cannot pay more since they pay taxes to the limit. Mr. Kothari talks of the poor agriculturist, shedding tears for him. No doubt the agriculturist has borne the burden all the time and people like Mr. Kothari got away with it. Yet, when it now comes to the turn of particular types of agriculturists, who run away from the primary duty of producing food for the people in search of money to fill their pockets, he comes and pleads for the poor man. This wonderful poor man is being masqueraded in many forms before this country. It is always the poor man whom we think of but did we withdraw the Estate Duty because of the poor man? It was the very rich who were going to be affected and yet, we had no hesitation in the name of the poverty of this State to withdraw an innocuous resolution like that. It would have, perhaps, fetched very little revenue specially from people who would be able to pay. Do we want agricultural land in this country to accumulate in the hands of certain individuals who may not be able to effectively look after the cultivation of these vast stretches of land? There must be some limit to all this.

3 p.m. "Now, I do not want a superficial examination of these things; I do not want a cursory examination of these things; I want a careful and close scrutiny that will bear the test of time; and Government must have the power to exempt or to vary, even when the Legislature is not in session—I won't object to it. For, if prices fall and there is a steep fall recorded, certainly I would ask the Government straightaway, even anticipating the sanction of the Legislature, to withdraw the additional taxation burden that has been laid.

"Now, Madam, we have withdrawn certain things from the purview of the Bill; the reasons must clearly be stated. Pepper, coffee and tea, all come and stand before us in a procession and say 'we are poor, we have no means'. They say they do not earn even to pay their way—is all that a fact? I do not say they do not pay heavily—some of them, rubber and coffee for instance—but the levy of an extra rupee per acre, or of so many rupees per acre which is sought to be proposed here, is not going to affect materially their balance sheets. It is up to them to show that their dividends would be affected; and even if their dividends are affected, I do not think we need mind. It is the industry, it is the welfare of the people in the industry that should be affected—and if that is shown, I dare say every one would drop the idea of the operation of this additional tax. Plantations are no doubt not purely agricultural estates; tea and coffee are not purely agricultural estates; they are surely different from crops like chillies or

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tobacco. The three-acre man is not going to be hurt, and even the rich man will get an exemption on the first three acres. What is the objection to people who have made gains being made to pay? Let the man who has grown chillies and sold it to other parts of the State or exported it to Ceylon and the like—let him part with a little of the gain in the shape of duty.

"And what is it that the landlord does, let me analyse. Most of these gentlemen take what is called a 'kuthahai', i.e., to say, they enter into a lease with others. (Interruption by Sri T. Viswanatham.) I do not know if Mr. Viswanatham has entered into any such lease in respect of his lands. But many landlords do enter largely into such leases; they say, so much you should give if you grow chillies, so much you must pay if you grow groundnut, so much if you grow paddy. They say that contracts are sacred. Contracts are sacred only so far as they do not quite affect the welfare of those who are concerned in the contract; but if they are of such a nature that they affect the interests of the poor man, the under-dog who toils for you, and you still draw your income, then I say such contracts are not sacred in my eye. That is why I say that several of these landlords take contracts. Contracts for sugarcane, I can show you by the score and by the hundreds in some districts. And what is it that happens? The contractor gives it in cash or he gives it in kind and it is sold. The owner pays the land tax alone, the cultivator has to struggle all the while to raise the crop, has to manure the land, has to irrigate the land, has to sow and has to harvest and all that—and at the end of all that he gets the produce. I do not say that ownership is wrong; it carries with it a certain amount of responsibility to look after the land, to manure it properly and see that it is cultivated at the proper season and even intelligent supervision is applied to it in due time. While I admit that I am far away from the Communist in this matter, certainly I am not going to throw my lot with the bigger landlord, who if he wants to rule the roost, has to pay something to the State; and whatever he ought to pay he must be made to pay. And if he really cannot pay, let us by all means withdraw the tax. There is no use blindly opposing the tax or blindly supporting it. It is not an election manoeuvre I am after; I do not mind the Congress going to the polls and getting routed, if necessary, on a just measure of taxation which will prescribe a proper and just level of tax for each man—the man at this end who pays the sales tax on the one rupee worth of chillies he buys just with a view to feed himself, and the rich man who leases his land and awaits his money at the end of the harvest. Let us be just to all. Let there be an understanding now that before the Select Committee, every group of people from the plantations or from the sugarcane or chilly or tobacco areas, be fully heard. I have not made out any case just now; I have not made up my mind; but let us hear the case and let us go through it carefully. There is a case for taxation, and if it is there, let us see how far the tax can be levied. Government can from now on make it clear to them that opportunities will be afforded for such deputations to be heard

[Sri P. Venkatarama Ayyar] [1st September 1951]

“தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் இவ்விதம் கிடைக்கும் கடன் முதலிய மற்ற செலவுகளுக்கும் நெல்லை வலுவிலே விறகவேண்டிய நிலையில் அங்கே **procurement** பண்ணவேண்டிய தவசியமே இல்லை. அங்கிருக்கும் ஜனங்களுக்கு இந்த **procurement**னால் அசௌகரியமும் தொல்லையும் தானிருக்கின்றன. உற்பத்தியாகும் உணவை காலாகாலத்தில் வாங்கிக்கொண்டு போகமுடியாத நிலையிலும் அங்கே **procurement staff** அட்டாசங்கள் நடத்திக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது. அவர்கள் என்ன செய்கின்றார்கள் என்றால் அவர்கள் ஊர் ஊராக சென்று நெல் இருக்கிறதா என்றும் கணக்கு ஒன்றும் பார்க்காமல் கணக்கில் எவ்வளவு இருக்கிறது என்றும் பார்க்காமல் குத்து மதிப்பாக,—நெல் இருக்கிறதோ இல்லையோ—நெல்லைக் கொடுத்து விடுங்கள் என்று கேட்கிறார்கள். **Prosecution** என்று பயமுறுத்தி ஏழைகளைத் தொந்தரவு செய்கிறார்கள். என்ன விளைந்திருக்கிறது என்றும் பார்க்கவில்லை. இவ்விதம் பயந்து கொடுத்துவிட்டால் மீதம் என்னவிருக்கும் என்பதையும் பார்க்கவில்லை. யிறகு அடுத்த சாகுபடிக்கு அவனுக்குப் போதுமான நெல் இருக்காது. பிறகு சாப்பாட்டிற்கும் வேண்டிய நெல் இல்லை. இவ்விதமிருந்தால் விவசாயிகளுக்கு எங்கிருந்து உற்சாகம் வரும்? அருபடி பண்ணுவதற்கு எவ்விதம் ஆர்வம் ஏற்படும். அடுத்த வருஷ சாகுபடி சிலவு என்ன என்பதையும் பார்க்கவில்லை.

“இவர்கள் இப்படி சாகுபடிக்கு தடங்கல் ஏற்படுத்துகிறார்கள். மற்ற **Grow More Food department** இருக்கிறது. ஒரு பக்கத்தில் இந்த **procurement staff** களின் தொல்லை. மற்றொரு பக்கத்தில் இந்த **Grow More Food** பிரசாரம். ஒரு டிபார்ட்மெண்டுக்கும் இன்னொரு டிபார்ட்மெண்டுக்கும் முறண். இவ்விதமாய் வேலை செய்கின்றார்கள். ஜனங்களுடைய போட்டியினால் உணவு உற்பத்தியும் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறது. இன்னும் இந்த விவசாய இலாகாவிலுள்ள விவசாயிகளுக்கு தேவையான காலத்தில் ஒத்தாசையே கிடையாது. அவ்விதமிருக்கும்பொழுது உணவு உற்பத்தியை பெருக்க முடிவதில்லை.

“இப்பொழுது உணவு உற்பத்தியின் பெட்டி வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். விவசாயிகளுக்கு காலாகாலத்தில் இலாகா உதவி செய்துவந்தால் நிச்சயமாக விளைவை அதிகரிக்கமுடியுமென்று காண்பித்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவ்விதம் காண்பித்ததில் ஒரு ஏக்கரில் மூன்று மடங்கு நான்கு மடங்கு அளிக்கமாக விளையவைக்கமுடியுமென்று நிதர்சனமாக காண்பித்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் அவ்விதம் எல்லோராலும் காண்பிக்கமுடியாது. ஒரு தனிப்பட்டவர்கள் தான் காண்பிக்கலாம். ஆனால் அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய தெம்பு இல்லை. அதனால் அவர்களுக்கு சர்க்காரின் ஏதாவது கடன் கொடுத்து உதவினால் அவர்களால் அவ்விதம் உற்பத்தி செய்து காண்பிக்கமுடியும். இப்பொழுது ஒரு வருஷம், இரண்டு வருஷமாக அவ்விதம் கடன் கொடுப்பதாக சொல்லி வருகிறார்கள். ஆனால் கொடுக்கப்படும் கடனை காலாகாலத்தில் **sanction** செய்வதில்லை.

8-45 P.M.

“இன்னும் விவசாயத்திற்கு வேண்டிய எஞ்சுபளை செய்வதிலும் காலாகாலத்தில் சப்ளை செய்வதில்லை. கேட்டால் **wagon** ரபீன் இல்லை எழுத இருக்கிறோம் ராணிப்பேட்டைக்கும், ஆல்வாய்க்கும், மைசூருக்கும் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். உபயோகப்படுத்தவேண்டிய காலம் தப்பி வந்தால் விவசாயிகள் வாங்குவதில்லை அப்பொழுது சாகுபடிக்கு வேண்டிய லட்சக் கணக்கான எரு மூட்டைகள் வந்திருக்கின்றன. அவையெல்லாம் அப்படியே கிடக்கின்றன. ஒருவரும் வாங்குவதில்லை என்று ரிப்போர்ட்டு வருகிறது. எரு உபயோகப்படும் காலத்தில் கடன் கொடுத்தால் அதை வாங்கி விவசாயம் செய்வார்கள். சாகுபடி காலத்தில் கேட்டால் சாகுபடி முடிந்த பின் வருகிறது. கேட்டால் நாங்கள் என்ன பண்ணுகிறது என்று சொல்லி விடுகிறார்கள். கடனுக்குப் போனால் கடன் **sanction** ஆவதற்கும் சடங்குகள் முடிவதற்கும் மூன்று மாதங்கால்கின்றன. விவசாய இலாகாவிற்கு போய் பசுந்தான் விதை கேட்டால் அதையும் காலாகாலத்தில் கொடுப்பதில்லை. காலம் தப்பி விதைகளையோ எருவையோ கொடுத்தால் அவைகள் முழு பலன் தராது. டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் கொடுக்கும் விதைகளையும் எருவையும் காலத்தில் கிடைத்துப் போட்டால்தான் பூரண பலன் கிடைக்கும். காலம் தப்பி கொடுத்துவிட்டு ‘சும்மா போடுங்கள்’ என்று சொல்பதானம் சொல்லிவிடுகிறார்கள். அதன் பிறகு எருவையும் தலையில் கட்டி

[1st September 1951] [Sri P. Venkatarama Ayyar]

விறகிறார்கள். இந்த நிலைமையில் மிராசதாரர்களுக்கு உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்யவில்லை ஒரு டிபார்ட்மெண்டு உதவி செய்யும்பொழுது மற்றொரு டிபார்ட்மெண்டின், தொந்தரவால் நல்ல உற்பத்தி காண்பிக்கமுடிவதில்லை. அதற்கு அதிகாரிகள் அந்தந்த கிராமத்திற்குச் சென்று விவசாயத்தில் உற்சாகம் உள்ளவர்களைக் கண்டு பேசி தேவையை அறிந்து உற்பத்திக்கு வேண்டிய வழியைக் கண்டுபிடிக்கவேண்டும். கிஸ்தி வகுல் செய்வதற்கு பிர்க்காவிற்கு பிரக்கா போவதுபோல் உற்பத்தியை பெருக்குவதற்கான வழியையும் உதவியையும் விவசாயிகளுக்குச் செய்துக் கொடுத்தால் உற்பத்தி பெருக்குவதற்கு குஷி ஏற்படும். அந்தந்த டிபார்ட்மெண்டு ஒத்துழைத்து கடன் உதவி, எரு உதவி முதலிய வசதிகளைச் செய்துகொடுத்தால் உற்பத்தியை பெருக்கி விடலாம், கஷ்டம் ஒன்றுமில்லை. அசாத்யமான காரியமும் இல்லை. விவசாயிகளுக்கு வசதிகள் கொடுத்து ஊக்கம் கொடுக்கும் பட்சத்தில் உற்பத்தியை பெருக்குவது என்பது பிரமாதமான காரியம் ஒன்றுமில்லை. இந்த தேசத்திலேயே நம்முடைய பற்றாக்குறையை ஈடு செய்துகொள்வதற்கு வேண்டிய இடம் இருக்கிறது, நிலமிருக்கிறது, வேலைக்கு ஆட்கள் இருக்கின்றார்கள், மனோபாவம் இருக்கிறது. ஆனால் அவ்விதம் செய்யமுடியாதபடி மிராசதாரர்கள் இப்பொழுது பல இக்கட்டுகளில் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்கிறவர்களுக்கு கிராமப் பட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்தால் உற்சாகம் குறைந்து மாய் வரவேண்டிய வரும்படி குறைந்து போனதால் உற்சாகம் குறைந்து வருகிறது. அவர்களுக்கும் அதிக உற்பத்தி செய்யவேண்டுமென்றுதான் முனைந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய சாதனங்களைச் செய்து கொடுக்க சர்க்கார் தயாராக வரவேண்டும். எங்கே எதை செய்ய வேண்டுமோ அதைச் செய்யாமல் இயற்கை சரியில்லை என்றும் இந்திய சர்க்கார் அரிசி அனுப்பவில்லை என்றும் தட்டிக் கழிக்காமல் உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்யப்படும் இடங்களுக்கு எரு கடன் முதலியவைகள் கொடுத்து சலுகைகள் காட்டி நெல் விலையையும் உற்பத்தியாளர்களுக்குக் கட்டுபடியாகும்படி உயர்த்திக்கொடுத்தால் இந்த பஞ்சத்தை அடியோடு நிவர்த்தி செய்துவிடலாம். இது ஒரு அசாத்யமான காரியமில்லை. உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்யும் இடங்களிலெல்லாம் லாபத்தைக்கருதி வியாபாரப் பொருள்களை விலையச் செய்வதால் உணவு உற்பத்தி குறைந்துவருகிறது, உணவு உற்பத்திக்கு வேண்டிய சலுகையைச் செய்துகொடுக்க சர்க்கார் முன் வராததால் தான் இந்த கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. இப்பொழுதே நிவர்த்தி செய்துவிடலாம். பிரமாதம் ஒன்றுமில்லை நம்முடைய சுயதேவையை நம்முடைய மாகாணமே பூர்த்தி செய்துகொள்ள முடியும். உண்மையில் விவசாயத்தையே நம்பி யிருப்பவர்களுக்கு உதவி செய்தால் பற்றாக்குறையின் பெரும்பாகத்தை ஈடுசெய்து கொடுக்க தஞ்சை ஜில்லா தயாராக இருக்கிறது. இன்னும் வேண்டிய எரு முதலிய உதவிகளை காலா காலத்தில் செய்து கொடுத்தால் இந்த 3 லட்சம் டன் இல்லை, 5 லட்சம் டன் அல்லது 6 அல்லது 7 லட்சம் டன்களைக்கூட அதிகமாக உற்பத்தி செய்து கொடுக்கமுடியும். நான் ஒரு அனுபவமுள்ள விவசாயி என் பதிலுதான் அவ்விதம் சொல்லுகிறேன். நாங்கள் இவ்விதம் சொல்ல தால் நெல் உற்பத்தி செய்துவருகிறேன் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு பணத்தை தஞ்சை ஜில்லா அடித்துக்கொண்டுபோக பார்க்கிறார்கள் என்றும் சொல்லலாம். உணவு பொருள் அத்யாவசிய பண்டமாச்சே அதற்கு அதிக பணம் கொடுப்பது என்று நினைக்கலாம். தஞ்சை ஜில்லா வாசிகள் நெல்லை வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்க முடியாது. அவர்கள் அங்கு உற்பத்தியாகும் நெல்லை வெளி இடங்களுக்கு அனுப்பவேண்டியதுதான் வேறு வழி இல்லை.

“நிலைமை இவ்விதமிருக்கும்பொழுது கோயம்பத்தூர் மகா நாட்டில் நமது பிரதம மந்திரி பேசும்போது தஞ்சை ஜில்லா வாசிகள் ஆன் தற்கும் பாடுவார்கள் ஆகாததற்கும் பாடுவார்கள், சதா சுச்சல் போடுவார்கள், இது அவர்களுக்கு சஜம் என்று அவர் சொன்னார். நான் சொல்லுகிறேன் அவருக்கு தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் 20 அல்லது 30 ஏக்கர் நிலம் இருந்தல்லவேண்டும். அதிலிருந்து அவருக்கு என்ன ஏரும்படி வருகிறது என்றும், அதில் எவ்வளவு சிலவாகிறதென்றும் அதை வைத்துக் கொண்டு தன்னுடைய யோக்கைமங்களை செய்து பாக்கவேண்டும். அப்பொழுது அவர் சுச்சல்போடுகிறாரா இல்லையா என்று பார்க்கலாம். நான்

[Janab Mahboob Ali Baig] [3rd September 1951]

and only the rich cultivator can go in for these commercial crops. People who grow commercial crops are rich enough to meet the expenditure and make more money. Now, is there no justification, I ask, even from the principle laid down in regard to income-tax, that the man who raises crops and makes money should be made to pay? Is there any reason why he should be exempt from paying the tax which is got from this kind of agriculture? I fail to follow my hon. Friend, Mr. Kothari, in this matter. He said, on the one hand, the Hon. Minister for Labour asks the labourers to be paid more and on the other hand, he asks the rubber plantation people and the coffee plantation people, to pay more tax. It is all the criticism of the capitalists who want to amass more and more wealth at the expense not only of the labourer but of the finances of the country. There is no force at all in that.

"Again, take the other aspect of the Bill, which is mentioned in sub-clause (3) of clause 3 of the Bill which says that persons owning lands whose revenue is more than Rs. 150 must pay some more tax in progression. The same principle is involved in this. It is common knowledge that agriculture is just like any industry; for instance, if a man sinks more capital in an industry he gets more benefit and on the other hand, if the capital sunk is less, he gets less benefit. So, my submission is, all the principles involved in the Agricultural Income-tax Bill are also income-tax principles and all those are applicable to this Bill also.

"Madam, it is accepted on all hands that till such time as this country gets converted to Communist principles, or till such time as we introduce what is called the Co-operative system of Government, this capitalist system which is now prevailing is bound to continue. But, even in a capitalist State, it is possible for the Government to alleviate the suffering of the common man and the poor man and one of the methods of doing that is to tax the rich and not tax the poor—tax people in progression—so that the benefit of it all goes to the poorer people. Not that I am approving of this system of capitalist Government or the Soviet system or Socialist system of Government, in which there is no poor or rich man, as it is said, I do not know how far it is true; but, so long as this capitalist system of Government continues, it is the bounden duty of the Government in a capitalist State to elevate the condition of the poorer people by taxing the rich in progression, that is, by taxing the people who are able to pay, in progression, so that all may have equal benefit. Therefore, Madam, I heartily support the principles involved in the Bill.

"But, there are two or three serious defects in the provisions of the Bill that is placed before us. The first thing that strikes anybody is this. I am one who is very zealous of the rights of this House. It may be a popular Government; it may have 99 per cent of the people voting for that party and the leader, even if he is elected by direct voting—hundred per cent voting for him—I would not give that President or the leader or the party which

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has 99 per cent of voters behind it, the power which really belongs to this House. You must here and now, when you are passing an enactment, make it very clear what this enactment stands for and you should not leave it to the executive Government to make changes as it suits that Government. I find, Madam, that in clause 5, power is given to the State Government to notify exemptions. I am not here referring to particular cases of exemption, but it is necessary that they should mention what are the classes of cases in which the Government may exempt and under what circumstances the Government are entitled to exercise their jurisdiction, their power or their discretion in the best interests of the country. But, to say, without mentioning the particular classes of cases in which the Government can exempt, in a general manner in this clause, that the Government shall have power to exempt this or that class of persons according to their sweet will and pleasure, is not proper. As I said, I am very zealous of the rights of this House and I would not be a party to a legislation which tries to place a power which really belongs to this House, into the hands of the executive, however popular it may be.

"The second thing is this. Rules may be framed by the Government—which is merely a procedural matter—which are not inconsistent with the spirit of the Act. I have known of such cases only. But, now it has become a fashion, a very dangerous fashion for the democracy of the country, to appropriate to the Government powers that really belong to this House. That must be deprecated and only such powers as are necessary for the due execution of the policies laid down in the enactment and for the due execution of the duty cast upon the Government in matters like that, should be taken. In this matter, the Government are asked to collect revenues under certain circumstances, from cash crops and from certain persons who own land paying a kist of more than Rs. 150. That rules that are absolutely necessary for the execution of the duty cast upon the Government by the enactment only must be left to be framed by the Government and that they should also be placed before this House, is a very sound and salutary principle. Whether it will be possible for this House to question those rules, is a different matter altogether. By some amendments made by the House, those rules will be gone into by Committees, but we are not in that stage now. Therefore, Government ought to be more careful and in taking powers they should not take more powers than are absolutely necessary for implementing the enactment.

"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I am therefore of the opinion that this is a very sound legislation and just legislation, because, only those people who are able to pay are going to be asked to pay. It is high time that the indulgence which the capitalist Government has shown to the agricultural capitalists—I shall put it like that—is not continued, but that they collect from them more and more money, in order that the general coffers of the State improve and a Welfare State is established soon."

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that the increase in the cost of production has not been taken into account? The cost of production of the crops referred to in the Bill has increased. The Hon. Minister said that the agriculturist is getting 175 per cent more than what he was getting in 1937. Does not the Hon. Minister feel also that the cost of production has gone up by 400 per cent? Let the Hon. Minister make up a balance sheet of what the agriculturist makes due to increase in prices after deducting the cost of production that has now increased very much. I can assure the Hon. Minister that compared to the high cost of living, the agriculturist is not getting what he used to get in the year 1937. He is living in austerity and he is living a life of privation. To tax the agriculturist at this stage is something criminal.

"Sir, we are told that the State needs finance and that is why these taxation proposals are being introduced. May I know, Sir, whether the draft of the Planning Commission report has been accepted by this Assembly? We have not discussed it even. Because the Planning Commission has proposed a number of schemes and because the Government are likely to take up a few schemes in connexion with the five-year plan, the Government want to raise the finance required by these taxation measures. I feel, Sir, that a decision on these things ought not to be taken by this Assembly but by the new one which will be seized of the facts of the case then.

"I hope, Sir, during the Select Committee stage of this Bill, the Hon. Minister will be pleased to take out a number of commercial crops from the list of crops included in the Bill or to reduce the rates of assessment on them, to such an extent that it may not be a burden on the agriculturists. Thank you, Sir."

* SRI P. NATESAN :—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also object to this Bill being introduced. In the statement of objects and reasons the Government have not stated anything as to why they are going to raise this tax. I am sorry to say that I do not feel there is any necessity to raise this tax now, especially at the fag end of this legislature. According to me there is no gap in the current year's budget. The Government should in fairness take this House into their confidence and say for what this tax is intended. Again this Bill seeks to discriminate between food crops and cash crops and I am not sure whether this will be in consonance with the provisions of the Constitution. The assessment or the special levy will be on the acreage basis without any reference to yield or production. This is unsound in principle. Sir, the revenue of the State has grown considerably. About fifteen years ago the revenue of this State was about 16 crores including excise revenue. Today without this excise revenue it has gone far beyond this 16 crores. As the hon. Member Sri Kothari pointed out this tax is coming up as result of the Planning Commission's report. But the plan has not been adopted either by the Central Government or the State Government. There is no need for the Government to show this indecent haste to finance programmes which may or may not

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materialise. Then, Sir, the Report of the Land Reforms Committee on whose findings this measure is supposed to be introduced, is not an unanimous report. All most all the Members have appended minutes of dissent and the report itself has yet to be approved by the legislature and accepted by the Government.

"Sir, the levy of a special assessment on crops grown in this State will militate against their competitive capacity in the international markets. Most of the crops proposed for the levy of this special assessment provide raw materials for the industries recently started. Government are probably under the impression that the commercial crops command better prices than food crops just at present and therefore they can bear this extra levy. It is no doubt true. For the time being on account of the present international demand and stock piling of goods by foreign countries, it is possible to justify the levy of taxation on these commercial crops. But, Sir, we must note that we are introducing a legislation with far-reaching results and therefore we must be very careful. Sir, the Government of India wants increased area under cotton, under sugarcane, etc., to make the country self-sufficient. The present proposal of this Government goes directly against this need. It is true that the area under the food crops is dwindling because of the uneconomic prices fixed by the Government. Under such circumstances naturally the Grow More Food campaign will cease to encourage food production. Sir, my Chamber has suggested the fixation of increased prices for the food crops and still pleads that it is only by offering attractive prices that Government could bring more area under food crops and thus encourage food production. At any rate I want to point out that the special levy is too heavy and I have no doubt that the Select Committee will go into the provisions of the Bill in detail and see that the production of exportable commodities is not discouraged by this extra taxation. It is not the idea of the Planning Commission to ruin the existing agriculture. The existing agricultural industries have to be developed and encouraged. Sir, about 20 crores of rupees are supposed to be contributed by this Government towards the schemes suggested by the Planning Commission. Of what earthly use is this amount when the schemes proposed by the Planning Commission are going to cost about 150 crores?

"Now, Sir, I must again come to the policy of prohibition followed by this State. This is now receiving attention of the various State Governments. As I observed some time back this prohibition question is going to be considered by the Planning Commission itself. The State Governments are known to be considering a reversal of this policy. Consequent on the introduction of prohibition various methods of taxation have been introduced and it has reached saturation point. Of course Government's spokesmen always say that prohibition has been a success. But according to newspaper reports cases of illicit distillation are increasing. There are also many unreported cases. Whatever it is, due to the introduction of prohibition all this trouble has come on the Government and at the fag-end of this legislature Government are thinking of imposing fresh taxation. As I remarked the other

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3-30 p.m. SRIMATHI A. V. KUTTIMALU AMMA :—“ Just a few words, Madam, Deputy Speaker. While commercial crops are fetching such high prices, though opinions may differ, it is not unfair to tax them in the manner contemplated. But I feel, Madam, that we should have some provision in this Bill to reduce the tax when the prices go down. I would like to make special reference to what the Subrahmanyam Committee says regarding Malabar and South Kanara; it is a very well considered Report and this is what it says :—

“ Lands in Malabar and South Kanara district: which are assessed as garden lands should be exempted from any extra charges on account of growing commercial crops.”

The Government are bringing forward legislation for purposes of taxation on the recommendations of this Committee. In Malabar, in most areas there are no irrigated gardens at all and the garden lands are taxed very heavily there, not on the basis of lands growing commercial crops but as garden lands. In many places, pepper and coffee in some places, and coconut and arecanuts in other areas are grown together and there will be difficulty in arriving at a correct assessment. It is true that the prices of pepper and coconut have gone up but about ten years ago the condition was very bad; the prices were very low with the result that in some places the coconut gardens were so neglected, that when the prices went up there was not the usual yield of coconuts. Even with regard to big estates, I have seen pepper vines being cut down and beautiful and extensive gardens rendered bare on account of the vines being cut down and carted in lorries. That was because the prices were very low. Another point to be considered is that pepper and also coconuts are not grown in areas where any other food-crops could be grown. The idea of this taxation, I think, is to encourage people to grow more food-crops; and if the idea is that, there is no justification and it is not right to tax these things. In conformity with the recommendations of the Subrahmanyam Committee, I would appeal to the Government to see that coconut and pepper are exempted from this taxation. Even if they are taxed against the recommendations of the Committee, I would request them to exempt small holdings which are less than three or four acres as it will be a great injustice to small holders if they are taxed. Conditions in Malabar were bad some five years ago, but now, because the prices of pepper and coconut have gone up and the small garden holders have made some money and their economic condition is improving, you should not tax them and over-tax them lest their condition should become worse than what it was before.”

* SRI M. P. DAMODARAN :—“ Madam, Deputy Speaker, it was never my intention to intervene in this debate at this stage.”

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—“ It is your right.”

* SRI M. P. DAMODARAN :—“ It is my right, Madam, but because I am on the Select Committee, I thought I could make

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my representations to the Select Committee and request them to revise their opinion. I wonder, Madam, why they included Malabar and South Kanara within the purview of the Bill.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ Because you can pay, and you are quite as good as others.”

* SRI M. P. DAMODARAN :—“ I am as usual interrupted by the hon. Gentleman, Sri Raghavayya, and he suggests that Malabar is quite as good as any other district. I may inform him, Madam, that it is apparently good but it is very bad; we are very poor, miserably poor and it is our misfortune that for an outsider who comes to Malabar it is so enchanting that he thinks we are sufficiently rich; richness is apparent but we are economically poor and it looks as though this Government is making an invidious distinction in discriminating against Malabar, especially the northernmost taluks of Chirakkal, Kottayam and Kurumbranad by levying a surcharge on crops which are not really commercial crops. If you look into any of the Reports, the Kuttikrishnan Menon Committee's Report or the Raghavendra Rao Report, you will see that they have stated that Malabar in the matter of assessment and taxation is on an entirely different footing from other districts. I do not know how when the Government accepted the second volume of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee Report as their Magna Carta, as their Charter of Rights, they failed to see that they have recommended the exemption of Malabar from the levy of this taxation. I will just refer to the Raghavendra Rao Report and this is what it says :

“ Next comes the heavy incidence of land revenue both in Kasargod taluk and in Malabar.”

and this is an opinion expressed by Mr. Rao after deep consideration of various factors. The Kuttikrishna Menon Committee sat in different places in Malabar and it took extensive evidence and came to the conclusion that the assessment in Malabar is definitely higher than in any other part of the State. The Malabar Tenancy legislation which was passed by this House recently, the House would have understood, is a complicated matter. I do not want to cast any aspersion on the Hon. the Minister for Revenue; he was not able to follow some of the provisions of the Bill and if he was able to follow them, he would not have called coconuts as commercial crops. They are garden crops. Pepper for some time was a fugitive crop; it was considered to be a fugitive crop and you must understand that a fugitive crop depends entirely on the fertility of the soil and it cannot be uniformly taxed. The previous speaker, Mrs. Madhava Menon, was referring to the rise in the prices of pepper and coconuts. I come from an area where pepper and coconuts are extensively grown. Five or six years ago, coconut was only fetching Rs. 14 to Rs. 20 per thousand and where was this Government then and why did it not come forward with some proposal for extending some sort of relief to the coconut cultivator? Without doing anything to help them then, the Government now come forward, when they find that

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on the object and the extent of the tax proposed in this measure. Some people say that the tax will be regressive; surely it is not going to be so regressive. What will be the effect? Surely, as a result of this levy, nobody is going to grow food in the place of cash crop. Cash crop is a temptation and—perhaps I should not call it so—it is a necessity in particular areas, and having regard to a certain order of things, I am prepared to grant that it is a necessity. But to those who want to run away with cash in their pockets, I tell them, Madam Deputy Speaker, 'Halt, the State calls you here to part with a little of your extra earnings; while others pay heavily, your tax has been light all this while. Render unto Caesar what is due to Caesar'. That is the way I would look at it.

Now, I come to the last point which Mr. Viswanatham raised. I am glad to support him in this point. It has become the custom of this House, the custom of this Parliament, whatever may be the custom elsewhere, that all rules in connection with taxation measures will be placed before the Assembly for approval, not before the two Houses—I object again—only before the Assembly, and the approval of the Assembly is obtained thereto. On the sales tax, every rule that is made is laid before the House and passed. Whether Members read it or not, whether Members go through those elaborate forms prescribed for each one of the kinds of tax that are sought to be levied or not, it is there, and it is approved. On the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, every draft rule is passed only after this House sets its seal of approval. These are the two instances I remember, I can quote other instances. It would be in the interests of the administration to place the rules, at any rate the more important ones, before this House before the Government actually levy the tax. Then there would be no grouse, no misunderstanding left. No doubt, I know administratively it would mean some difficulty. The Act has to be passed; it has to become law; rules have to be made and then they have to go through the mill of the department. That is the way the rules have to be worked. Especially on all subjects of financial business, there is certainly a case for placing the rules before this House. While I say this, I also say that there is a case for giving power to the Government to exempt certain articles or certain areas from taxation of this kind; because, as I said, in the event of the Assembly not being in session, prices may come down steeply in the case of a particular article; e.g., suppose pepper came down from Rs. 3,000 to somewhere about Rs. 1,000; cotton is coming down and is expected to reach Rs. 1,000. In such cases there is some case for this Government having the power. This provision in the Bill is good; let us take it; otherwise, we will be mere critics of this Government saying 'this Government levied the tax because the Assembly was not in session and there was no time to consider details; and things go on as if it is not a democracy'.

Madam, I am coming to the close of my speech. A democracy must function properly; a democracy must think and act

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wisely, cautiously and slowly if necessary. As I said, democracy is a more tardy process; but let us not make it a static nothing, a zero merely intended for obstruction purposes. That is not democracy. In democracy everything has to be verified, every party has to be heard, every kind of scrutiny has to be made. From the framing of the Bill down to the passing of the rules, everything has to be scrutinized. Now, let us act like strict democrats and yet face the people boldly, saying 'if you want us to achieve this, this, this, which will cost so much, we are going to levy this, this, this tax, which on an examination we have found to be just and important'.

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG :—“ Madam, Deputy Speaker, I am not one of those who think that because the Government will be out of office in a few months, they should not bring in measures which would be injurious to that party to which the Government belong. I consider, Madam, any such attitude on the part of a Government must be deprecated; for it will amount to a dereliction of duty on their part if they fail to do their duty at the proper time. I therefore congratulate this Government on bringing in some of these Bills in spite of the fact that they have been warned that these Bills might stand in the way of their re-election. They have been quite right in taking courage to present these Bills, and I congratulate them on that.

As regards the provisions of the Bill, I am generally in agreement with the principle underlying them. I am one of those who believe in the just maxim that a man must be taxed only in proportion to his ability to pay. That is a sound and salutary and just maxim which I wish the earlier Governments had followed, and this Government also had followed much earlier. Some of the hon. Members who took objection to this Bill seem to approve what is called an agricultural income-tax, meaning thereby that a tax should be levied on the income derived from agriculture and the tax must be in progression, of course exempting some lower incomes.

Now, it is true that the Agricultural Income-tax Bill has not been placed before us. Whatever may be the reason, I do not think the Government are justified in not bringing it up. There are no doubt many difficulties in that. Because the Agricultural Income-tax Bill has not been brought before us, that we should object to a tax of this kind, has no meaning. For, what do we find in this? The principle involved in agricultural income-tax is this, that people who are able to pay, must be made to pay more and more in progression, just like income-tax. Now, taking into consideration this principle, additional tax is sought to be levied on certain crops. Some people call them commercial crops and the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Varadachari, calls them cash crops. The idea behind this is, that these commercial crops or cash crops bring in more money to the cultivator. I do not think any member of this House or outside can controvert that fact. It is true that the cultivator also is made to meet the expenditure

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there is some rise in prices, with a proposal to tax pepper and coconut and to exploit the poor peasant proprietor. I do not want to say anything further on this question except to refer to what the Leader of the House said here on the floor of the House. He stood up on behalf of the Government, spoke of his five-year plan and wanted us to express or ventilate any of our grievances. According to him, if I am hungry, I must stand up and say that I am quite satisfied with my food and that I do not want any food; according to his political philosophy, if there is pain, I must say there is much pleasure. Let me say, Madam, that I belong to a different creed and I believe in a different ideology; I represent the have-nots of Malabar and I am here to plead their cause. The Hon. Minister is now here and I hope he will listen to my humble request. The Hon. the Leader of the House the other day said that there is not much violation of law and order in this country but my humble submission to him is that there has been and there will be, if such legislation is resorted to without any consideration for the cause of the poor. My request through you to the Hon. the Minister is that coconuts and pepper should be exempted from the purview of the Bill. I do not know how he found his way only this morning to exempt cotton and groundnut. What I wish to submit in that connexion is that groundnuts are grown in areas which if necessary can be converted into food-crop growing areas but coconut gardens can never be converted for purposes of growing paddy, nor even into a single food-crop growing area; they are grown in entirely different areas. I hope the Hon. Minister will find his way to delete the item from the list of articles which he proposes to tax. I hope I shall be able to prevail upon the Hon. Minister at the Select Committee stage."

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

2-45 p.m. * Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, I rise on a point of order. Under Article 198 (1), 'a Money Bill shall not be introduced in a Legislative Council'. My objection is based upon the ground that there is a Joint Select Committee proposed in respect of this Bill, that is to say, some Members of the other House will have to be drafted into this Committee. If it is said in the Constitution that 'a Money Bill shall not be introduced in a Legislative Council', it means that the other House cannot take any step prior to the Money Bill being passed by this House, that is to say, it shall not also send Members to the Joint Select Committee to consider the Money Bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly. The language of the Article shows that it is not merely that the Bill cannot be introduced in the Legislative Council but the Legislative Council is prohibited also from sending Members to a Joint Select Committee on a Money Bill."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"Is that clear?"

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"I am making it clearer."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"Article 198, clause (1) only says that 'a Money Bill shall not be introduced in a Legislative Council'."

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* Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"But what are the implications? A Money Bill can be considered by the Legislative Council only after it has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of the State. Only after the passing of the Bill, it will be transmitted to the other House and then only it will have an opportunity of considering the Bill. Then, you may say, on a motion for concurrence for a Joint Select Committee, there can be no question of considering the Bill and that it will be before the other House only for the purpose of including some Members of that House in the Joint Select Committee. But, what I submit is, it has got to consider the Bill before agreeing to send Members to the Select Committee. Even if it does not go into the merits of the Bill and even if it agrees merely to permit some Members to serve on the Committee, the Bill will still have to go through the first stage there. But Article 198 (1) prevents not only such an introduction of the Money Bill in the Legislative Council but also prohibits it from taking any step prior to the Bill being passed by the Legislative Assembly itself. That is to say, the first stage, second stage and the third stage of the Bill must all be over here in the Assembly before it can go to the Legislative Council. In an intermediate stage, it cannot go to the Legislative Council. When it is said, 'it shall not be introduced', it means that it shall not also be discussed. And no concurrence for such a Joint Select Committee can be given by the other House. The Bill must be introduced here; it must be referred to the Select Committee by this House and it must be passed by this House. It is only after the Bill is passed by this House, it can go to the other House and not otherwise. Therefore, the request for the concurrence of the other House to include some of its Members in the Joint Select Committee violates Article 198 (1), and that is my point of order."

* Sri N. S. VARADACHARI:—"The hon. Gentleman, Mr. Viswanatham, has given a very correct exposition of the rules as they stand. When I spoke on the Bill earlier, I raised a very question here; it must be referred to the Select Committee by established by the Government to introduce Money Bills and even Resolutions relating to Money Bills first in this House. Unless they are considered by this House and passed, they should not be taken to the Second Chamber which has no power to go into them."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"Article 198 refers only to Money Bills. It does not refer to Resolutions."

* Sri N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I want the Government and the Hon. Speaker to establish such a very healthy convention. We can later extend or enlarge it. The rule implies that it is the undoubted privilege of this House to consider a Bill like this or any other taxation measure in the initial stages, pass it and then send it to the other House, if necessary, for further consideration. In fact, that is the procedure laid down in the British Parliament."

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and serious objection would be taken by the Members of Parliament if, for instance, the British Government were to take even resolutions relating to taxation first to the House of Lords and then bring them back to the House of Commons or ask for a Joint Select Committee in the House of Commons for consideration of Money Bills."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, more is sought to be read into Article 198, clause (1) than is contained there. Let me draw your attention to what it contains. It says, 'A Money Bill shall not be introduced in a Legislative Council'. I am not introducing a Money Bill in the Legislative Council. I am introducing the Bill in this House and I am asking the concurrence of this House to take the advice of the Members of that House which will also send some Members to the Joint Select Committee. Now, let us take an example. Suppose, a Bill is brought before this House and circulated for eliciting public opinion. I ask, does it in any way take away the supremacy of this House, because somebody else has been asked to give opinion on the matter? No, Sir. The only point to be taken into consideration is, has the right of this House been in any way impaired. I say, no. What is suggested is that we propose to set up a Committee wherein we could have the advantage of the advice of the Members of the other House. What happens after that? The deliberations of the Select Committee come to this House and hon. Members of this House consider them and they have got the right to reject or accept them and so, the supremacy of this House is not in the least impaired and they can certainly object if there is introduction first in the other House.

"In this connexion, may I also draw your attention to clause (3) of Article 198? It says, 'If the Legislative Assembly accepts any of the recommendations of the Legislative Council, the Money Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses with the amendment recommended by the Legislative Council and accepted by the Legislative Assembly.' Thus, there is provision for the Legislative Council to make certain recommendations which may or may not be accepted by this House. So, if there is provision even after the Bill is passed for consulting the other House and if the other House has got the right to make recommendations, I do not really see any constitutional objection to the members of the other House being included in the Joint Select Committee. I feel that this House is not in the least deprived of its power and what we seek to ask for is merely the permission of this House to take some Members of the other House to the Joint Select Committee. Sir, even the report of the Committee will be considered here first and discussed and then passed. Only after it has been passed here, it will go to the other House. Even then, this House reserves the right to accept or reject any recommendations that they may make. Therefore, I do not think the point raised by the hon. Member, Mr. Viswanatham, is correct. In my view it is in order to refer the Bill to a Joint Select Committee."

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* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister said that he is not introducing this Bill in the Legislative Council. I wonder, what he is going to do when it goes to the Legislative Council. What will be the form or the language of the motion which he will make in the other House? Is he going there simply to say that this Government want the concurrence of the Legislative Council to send some Members to the Select Committee set up by the Legislative Assembly in respect of the Bill? That would not be the form, because rules do not provide for it. The introduction motion as well as the request for concurrence in setting up a Joint Select Committee should be considered together. Therefore, that argument of the Hon. Minister cannot stand.

"That apart, I did not raise my point of order on the ground that the supremacy or dignity of this House is being impaired by taking this Bill to the other House. Each House has got a dignity of its own. I do not controvert it, Sir. According to the Constitution Act, 'a Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Legislative Council' and I submit, 'introduction' means that until the complete passage of the Bill is over here, the Legislative Council cannot have anything to do with it. That is to say, it has nothing to do with the composition or set-up or lending some Members to the Committee or participating in its discussions or in its passage. So, the word 'introduction' connotes all those things. After you introduce, you have got to do something else. A Bill cannot be introduced and left there. Therefore, when it is said to take place and then a third reading. Therefore, when it is said that a Money Bill cannot be introduced in the Council, it means that all the three stages of it must be gone through here in the Assembly and then only it should go to the Legislative Council.

"The Hon. Minister referred to clause (3) of Article 198. Apparently he made a mistake—a mistake in the identity of language. I think, this clause does not support his contention. It is only after the Bill is passed by this House and goes to the Legislative Council that it is entitled to make some recommendations and not until then. It can have no voice either in the introduction stage or in the Select Committee stage. As soon as a Joint Select Committee is set up to consider a Bill other than a Money Bill, you will see that that right to have a Select Committee in the other House gets lost. In the case of a Money Bill, it cannot have a Select Committee. Therefore, I submit that it is out of order and instead of arguing with me for argument's sake, it is better to drop that portion of the motion."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" Sir, so long as this Bill has not already been introduced and discussed in the Legislative Council, the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Viswanatham's argument does not hold good. What is it that is done here? It is introduced for the first time here. Only it has provided that certain Members belonging to the other House may collaborate in the Joint Select Committee. It does not, by any stretch of imagination, mean that the power

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MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall give my ruling tomorrow."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Sir, it is only from the notes and the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill that one gathers that assessment is to be collected on commercial crops. The Bill itself does not say a word about it. The word used in clause 2 of the Bill is 'crop'. It is defined as 'produce of any description raised on land, and includes fruits'. If the idea of Government is that only crops which fetch huge income are to be taxed, then, it is better it is made clear even now. I therefore suggest that 'crop' may be interpreted as meaning 'commercial crop'. The clause as it is, if allowed to stand, will mean also agricultural crop, paddy or any foodgrain. Further, it is not in the interests of the country that foodgrains should be taxed by any additional assessment. I therefore suggest that even in clause 3, under the various items listed, this may be made clear under (h) 'Any other crop notified by the State Government in this behalf.'

(At this stage Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.) I do not like that this Government should later on extend the scope of assessment to foodgrains like paddy, for instance."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"Madam, I rise on a point of clarification. The motion before the House is—

"That the concurrence of the Legislative Council be obtained in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both Houses consisting of 21 members to consider the Bill

So, the motion before the House is for getting the concurrence of the Legislative Council. That itself is the subject of ruling by the Speaker. Therefore, before he gives his ruling can we proceed with the discussion of this motion?"

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The Speaker himself has said that the merits of the Bill may be discussed till he gives his ruling tomorrow. So, the discussion on the Bill may now go on."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Then, Madam, you will see that clause 3 (4) says that—

"No notification under this section shall come into force unless it is approved by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly."

It is very gratifying to see that Government have thought fit that this notification should obtain the sanction of the Legislature, even though they have taken wide powers for the inclusion of any kind of foodcrop they may think proper under sub-clause (2) (h). I submit again, that that power is not justified; Government ought not to take that, but they should come to the Legislature and ask for their sanction.

"Then, Madam, the other observation I would like to make is that the powers taken by the Government under clause 7 are too

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wide. Even the language of the clause lacks felicity; if I may say so. It does not look legal at all. It says:

"If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, as occasion may require, by order, do anything which appears to them necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty."

I think it is high time our legal draftsmen acquire the ability to state our requirements accurately and not in such wide terms. I wish the Hon. Minister for Revenue and the Hon. Minister for Law avoid such drafting in future. I submit there is nothing wrong in their saying in clause 7 thus: "The rules can be extended or altered or modified in so far as they are not repugnant to the main provisions of this Act." I do not see any reason for the existing clause 7 as it stands now.

Then, as regards appeals and other matters I object to a different procedure being adopted in the disposal of various matters referred to in clause 6. For instance, I submit in regard to appeals and other matters connected with assessment and other similar things, the same procedure as we have now with regard to regular assessments may be followed. Why should there be a different procedure for the special assessment? There is the Board of Revenue and an appeal from it lies to Government and the limitation period fixed for such appeals. I think, it is better to have the same procedure for the special assessments also.

Finally, Madam, I wish to draw pointed attention to one salient factor regarding this legislation. Government have thought fit to bring this Bill of taxation at this time, the lag-end of the life of this Legislature. I only wish to say that this taxation measure should not be made a matter of electioneering campaign. Wherever we go in the State, we hear people saying that they want this project and that. The difficulty in executing the several projects is want of finance, and that can be made available only through fresh taxation; and the only point regarding that is which things should be taxed and which should not. I personally feel, Government have not exhausted their powers of taxation in respect of produce which are easily got. Take for instance, mica. If only the Government are wise and careful enough, I am sure they can get a crore of rupees from this source. It is common knowledge that Gudur mica mines have been yielding a large profit. The Government have been very timorous and shy in taxing them. They have been paying only a small sum by way of royalty to the Government. If only the Government sell them in public auction, I am sure they will get one thousand times and even two thousand times more income than what they are now getting by way of royalty. I suggest that the Government must exhaust this and the other sources of increasing their revenue before placing any additional burden on the poor and middle class agriculturists. The mica burden must be evenly distributed. Mica is not a product consumed in the country. It is mined only for export. People who have been engaged in mica mining either as producers or as middlemen have earned fabulous profits. I do not know why the Government have not thought of raising the tax on it. There is the

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4-30 p.m. house will be assessed to the tax. Is this assessment? Is this a measure that ought to be introduced by a Government who say that they have the welfare of the people at heart? How many taxes have been imposed? How many times that we Members have said that we must look to the conditions of the people? The Government must take a survey of the conditions of the people. They must see how many families are feeling these taxes as a great burden. If the Government are not responsive and do not care for the people, I say, 'all right; you go to the devils'. When I say 'you', I include hon. Members also. We will not be doing our duty by the people. The Government must know that the difficulty in this country regarding foodstuffs is due to the fact that we are not paying the agriculturist the price that we should pay him for the foodstuffs that he sells. As a result of this, no agriculturist is able to carry on his livelihood with the meagre income he gets from growing food crops. He is unable to purchase the other necessary articles with the money he gets by the sale of his food crops. But if he grows commercial crops on his land, he is able to make both ends meet. That is the position now. I am not pleading for those who carry on extensive cultivation of money crops. I have nothing to say about them. They can be taxed. The Government can tax the rich men up to their capacity to pay. But the middle classes can never get on without raising some money crop on their lands, because, the price that we pay for foodcrops is very low. The Central Government and also the State Governments do not see their way to put down firmly these blackmarketers. They are there from top to bottom. All the paddy with the poor man is not sold because he does not get a reasonable price. When the position is this, to tax all these commercial crops on the ground that they fetch a better price to the poor cultivator, is very harsh. We are having democracy—Government by the people, of the people, and for the people—only literally. This is not democracy. It must be a Government by the people, of the people and for the benefit of the people. The beneficial thing is absent now. Such taxation measures only indicate that. Take, for instance, North Malabar. It will be very hard on the people of North Malabar, because they grow no other crops. In South Malabar in our house compounds, we have a few coconut trees. We are not raising coconut trees in South Malabar for commercial purposes. But, still we are liable to pay the additional assessment under the provisions of this Bill. This is really hard. There will be a lot of dispute again as to who should decide which trees should bear taxation.

"Further, why not the Government have a minimum fixed? Why not the Government say that people who cultivate 3 acres or 5 acres will not be liable to pay tax?"

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Government have exempted up to a maximum of 3 acres."

SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I am very sorry. I see that the Government have exempted up to 3 acres. Small holders

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who raise money crops on 5 acres shall be exempt. I take back my criticism, because I was not aware of what the Hon. Minister said in the morning. The exemption provisions must be there. This Bill has to go to a Joint Select Committee. Instead of the word 'raising' the Government may use the words 'principally raising'."

Sri M. G. Natesa Chettiyar rose—

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member, Sri M. G. Natesa Chettiyar, will have a chance to speak. So, let him not interrupt."

SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Madam, I say that the words 'raising for the purpose of commerce' or 'raising principally for commerce' may be used instead of the word 'raising', so that the compounds of houses may not be included in this Bill. This point may be considered by the Joint Select Committee, and they may suitably modify the Bill. Otherwise, it will affect the middle classes, and this tax will be indiscriminately levied on them, because the tax will be levied on coconut trees, etc., which alone help the owners to purchase their other necessities."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Madam, this morning the Hon. Minister was reading something about exemption. I want to know clearly how many acres are exempted from payment of tax."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister will make it clear."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Is it a total exemption of 3 acres or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the area cultivated, or is it only a maximum of 3 acres?"

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I shall read out the relevant portion of my speech:—

"The Government have also decided that a concession may be made in order to benefit small holdings. The concession is that in any holding $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the area grown with the commercial crop will be exempt from charge subject to a maximum of 3 acres. It will be seen that this benefits the small holder."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Do I understand the Hon. Minister to say that if I own only one acre, and I grow chillies or tobacco on $\frac{1}{4}$ an acre, I will be asked to pay excess charge on one-fourth acre?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I have already stated that."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I crave your indulgence, Madam. We are considering a taxation measure. The provision in the Bill is sought to be changed by way of a statement. We want clarification, before we can proceed further. I want to know that if I have one acre, and if I grow commercial crop on half an acre, will I be liable to tax under the revised provision?"

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* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"The hon. Member will be exempted from payment of tax if he has one acre of land and he grows commercial crop on one-fourth acre."

* SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Madam, I thank the Hon. Minister for repeating the statement made on the floor of the House this morning. For the first time we are introducing a change in the land taxation policy of our State. Formerly, as we understood it, land on which agricultural operations were carried on, was being taxed. Now the Government are trying to add to that land-tax certain other taxation. Lands on which commercial crops are grown, are sought to be taxed. Probably the fact that while food is scarce in the country, agriculturists are turning over to the cultivation of commercial crops, has, in the main, prompted the Government to come forward with this measure. Apart from that, the Land Revenue Reforms Committee, which reviewed the land taxation in our State and the Planning Commission have indicated that for additional taxation a measure like this can be brought forward. If we scan the list of crops which are mentioned in the Bill, I submit, Madam, that most of them are also crops of considerable food value. Take for instance coconuts, fruits of the citrus varieties, sugarcane, turmeric, mangoes and plantains. (Onions are now exempt.) All these are of food value. They are not mere commercial crops. There are two incontrovertible facts which I hope the Government will keep in mind, namely, that a farmer owning a small holding will not willingly, unless compelled by circumstances, turn to the cultivation of commercial crops in preference to foodcrops. People owning 2 or 3 or 5 acres will not, unless for certain valid and compelling reasons, turn over that holding from cultivation of food-crops to cultivation of commercial crops. Two seasons stand foremost for such compulsion or conversion. One is the uneconomic price that food crops fetch. The agriculturist is compelled to find the many things which are his daily necessities—his farm implements, draught cattle, leather baling apparatus, etc.—at very high prices. As he is unable to meet his other necessities by the income he gets from cultivating food crops, he turns over to the cultivation of commercial crops. In other words, the Government make the growing of food crops uneconomic—intentionally by offering prices or unintentionally, the Government have made it uneconomic to grow food crops. The other reason is Nature has compelled him to go in for crops which require less irrigation facilities. Want of irrigation facilities and drought have compelled, in a large measure, the various districts to turn over to commercial crops. I am keeping in my mind an instance in point, and I want the Government to consider that point. North Arcot has been exposed to drought for the last four or five years. We could not grow any food crops worth mentioning. Paddy is out of the question, because paddy wants water all the year round. Three or four inches of water must be in the field always. Food crops cannot be grown in my district. Therefore, we have been compelled

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to turn to crops which do not require so much water as paddy. This is the main reason why North Arcot has turned to the cultivation of sugarcane, because, sugarcane requires water only for 18 days in a month. By sheer necessity we are compelled to grow sugarcane instead of food crops. Again, the State has been requiring more jaggery. As a matter of fact, from the statistics published I see that 1 lakh of acres more have to be grown with sugarcane in order to make our State become self-sufficient in jaggery and sugar. This one fact I want the Government to bear in mind in making exemptions in special cases of this nature. Hon. Members have spoken about coconuts and pepper. Speaking of sugarcane in Chingleput and North Arcot, I say we have no big mills in these two places. Probably persons who are benefited by the growing of sugarcane are those who are near the mills. In South Arcot there is a mill in Nelikuppam. Sugarcane is raised on thousands of acres in order to supply sugarcane to the mill for the manufacture of sugar. It is not so in the case of North Arcot, or Chingleput, where necessity compels people to grow sugarcane. We cannot grow any other crop. There may probably be some justification for planters of sugarcane in areas near mills to pay heavier taxes. But in districts like mine, I submit that no case is made out for a tax of this nature. Look at the hardship caused to the people. A farmer owning 5 or 10 acres of land growing sugarcane, has to find the pans, and he cannot have the iron materials. He has to get the cattle for the crushers. Because he cannot get cheaper fuel, he has to burn the bagasse. He has to burn the same molasses. On the top of all this, the Government of Madras have controlled the price of jaggery. If there is a free market, and jaggery is fetching a high price, probably there may be some case for paying higher assessment.

"Now we have controlled the price of jaggery. My hon. Friends from Malabar know that coconut which was sold at Rs. 15 per thousand in 1939 is now sold at Rs. 220. Therefore, there should be an automatic change in the rate of assessment also according to the rise and fall of prices. Now the price of sugarcane has been exposed to fluctuation. For instance, in 1939 one podhi of jaggery cost Rs. 7 totally insufficient even to meet the cost of production, later it went up to Rs. 125 till the Madras Government stepped in and fixed the price at Rs. 45 or Rs. 50 a podhi. It is now just paying its way. The cost of tilling the soil, making the soil ready for planting of sugarcane, manuring, cost of groundnut cake, all these go to make up the increased cost of production. Madam, I have made bold to put in an appeal on behalf of sugarcane growers in non-mill areas, owning 5 or 10 acres. I hope in the course of the Select Committee stage of the Bill all these considerations will be taken into account in coming to a just conclusion on the principles of taxation.

"Similarly, Madam, I would like to put in an appeal on behalf of fruit-growers. Fruits are of great value from the point of view

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of this House is taken away by it. Sir, this Bill is moved here. We discuss it and we pass it. Only we say, in addition to the Members of this House, some Members of the other House also shall be taken into the Committee. Instead of curtailing the powers of this House, my interpretation is that it is extending the powers of this House by allowing the Bill to go to the other House. I know in some Committees not only the Members but also some outsiders are also taken in. Therefore, this procedure does not offend the rights and powers of this House."

SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Sir, I think, the hon. Member Mr. Viswanatham's view is correct. Whenever a Finance Bill or a Money Bill is introduced, it is introduced only here. It does not mean that after introduction, the other House has got the right of concurrence and can do anything, discuss and consider that Bill. It is only after the Bill has been discussed and passed in this House, the other House has got the right to adopt it or to make recommendations in the form of amendments which this House may or may not accept. Of course, this is a limited right which is vested in the Upper House of democratic countries. Sir, it is not a question of taking away any power of this House but it is a question whether the other House has a right to influence the opinion of this House in regard to a Money Bill. My opinion is that it has not got that right."

JANAB MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, what my hon Friend, Mr. Viswanatham, says is that Article 198 (2) says that 'After a Money Bill has been passed . . . The words 'has been passed' mean 'finally passed'. We are now referring the Bill to the Select Committee. This is only the first or second stage. So this is not the stage, when it can be said to have been 'passed'. After the stage of the Select Committee, the Bill has to come to this House, when, we shall have to go through the Bill clause by clause and then finally pass it. It is only then the operation of the subsequent part of the Article comes, namely, 'having a Legislative Council, it shall be transmitted to the Legislative Council.' Therefore, there is much force in what the hon. Member, Mr. Viswanatham, says. For, this is not the stage when it can be said that the Bill has been passed. This is only the second stage, or half-way. Probably under the rules made under the new Constitution, such a Joint Select Committee is allowed. Even there, I am afraid, they refer to all kinds of Bills, Money Bills and non-Money Bills. Sir, in my opinion, after Article 198 has been passed, they should have another Article 198-A which should deal with Money Bills being referred to the Legislative Council even before they are passed by the Legislative Assembly. No doubt under rule 116 (1) it is competent for the Hon. Minister to move referring the Bill to a Joint Select Committee. But I am afraid when we get to the normal interpretation of Article 198, the hon. Member Mr. Viswanatham's point of order is really fatal to the introduction of this Bill."

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JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only rise on a point of clarification. Is it not a fact that the Members of the Legislative Council will vote in the select committee?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes, they will."

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID:—"That means they have got over-riding powers over the Members of this Legislative Assembly."

HON. MEMBERS:—"Yes, yes."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have heard not only the Hon. Member, Mr. Viswanatham, but other hon. Members too. The point of order raised is a very important one. There are no precedents to guide us in this matter in the proceedings of the Legislatures of Canada, Australia and so on. The point raised by Mr. Viswanatham is that a Money Bill shall not be taken to the Legislative Council before it is passed in the Assembly. In other words, the influence of the Council should not be made to be felt on this House before this House passes the Bill. I think I have put his point of order clearly. It is a very important point of order. As I said earlier, since there are no precedents for this in the Australian or Canadian or other Parliaments, I shall consider the question and give my ruling tomorrow. Till then I would ask hon. Members to speak on the merits of the Bill. I will ask the Hon. Minister to reserve his reply to tomorrow. I hope it is accepted."

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN:—"Better to adjourn the House now."

MR. SPEAKER:—"No, I will ask some Members to speak on the Bill today; the Hon. Minister will reply tomorrow."

*SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have done a great service by enunciating the proposition very clearly. But I wish to point out, Sir, that even for obtaining the concurrence of the Legislative Council, the concurrence of this House has to be obtained; and then how can you get the concurrence of the Council, unless you introduce the Bill there?"

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID:—"On a point of order, Sir. How can you proceed with the Bill when there is a point of order?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"What is there? The ruling has not been given. I said, I will give my ruling tomorrow. The Bill will not be finished today. I cannot say now whether my ruling will be in favour or against the hon. Member, Mr. Viswanatham."

*SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Then, I wish to point out, it should not be fatal to the introduction of the Bill, if the discussion is to go on now. For, otherwise, the Hon. Minister will have to alter or modify his motion."

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN:—"Will your ruling have retrospective effect?" (Laughter.)

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agricultural income-tax. The Government have not thought of it till now. Most of the crops, though they are called commercial, are crops in which the poor man is directly interested. Let us take tobacco, for instance. It is yielding huge profits. If a tax is levied on tobacco, the producer simply shifts the burden of taxation on to the consumer. The Minister for taxes, if I may so call the Hon. Finance Minister as he seems to take credit for levying the largest number of taxes, always casts his covetous eyes on the poor man's needs. On account of tobacco tax, cigar, which was selling at quarter of an anna, is now selling at half-an-anna. There is no poor man in this country who does not derive some solace by chewing betel leaves. Betel vines, turmeric, plantains and some other crops coming under the purview of this Bill are all crops with which the poor man is directly concerned. Turmeric is daily used by the womenfolk and I do not see why the Government should be so ungenerous as to deprive them of it. In Malabar, plantain is the poor man's food. Mango also is a poor man's food. I am not thinking of mangoes which are exported to England and other places.

Hon. Members may rest assured that the passage of this Bill is not going to affect their popularity. The reason is that it is nobody else than the Hon. Sri H. Sitarama Reddi who is piloting it. Till now I have not come across a single Act where the Hon. Sitarama Reddi has not taken care of the men of his rank and stamp. He is a favourite of rich men and is himself one. It is with full responsibility that he is proposing to tax some of the crops. The Government have been very clever to exempt cotton and groundnut, whose taxation affects rich men. They started this Bill by flamboyantly telling the people that they are going to realise a large revenue for building the Krishna-Pennar and Pulichintala Projects. But as criticisms began to pour in in the newspapers and from the Members of the Legislature, the original enthusiasm wanted and finally the tax is restricted to crops in which the poor people are directly involved, a section of humanity who does not seem to cross this parlour or create some trouble for the present at least. Cotton growers are represented by my Hon. Friend, Sitarama Reddi. (An hon. member :—"Whom do you represent?") I represent the hungry man. Taxes should always try to reach the rich and be distributed evenly and not sit tight upon poor people only.

"In clause 5, the Government have taken power to exempt any holding or any class of registered holders. Perhaps they may not invoke their power of exemption. Why should they not make the position clear and provide in the Bill itself, say for instance, that holdings below five acres shall be exempted? This is the opportune time to tell the people that the poor are not going to be affected by this Bill and that they need not get worried unnecessarily. That is the proper way of doing things.

"Thank you, Madam."

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SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—"Madam Deputy Speaker, according to the principles of democracy, such a Bill as this ought not to have been introduced at this time. That is high politics. Anyhow, just before the close of the life of this Assembly the Hon. Finance Minister and the Hon. Revenue Minister, who have earned a good reputation in a number of ways, need not have sponsored this Bill. Some tax is necessary; I am not condemning all taxation. My point is that this is not the proper time to introduce the Bill. We have been saying that this is a Welfare State and that the interests of the poor are our particular concern. We have to consider how this Bill will affect the poor.

"There is the Finance Minister's Kamadhenu of Sales Tax which is administered in a very callous and heartless way. Clever people are evading the tax. Still it is yielding a very large revenue. That tax has ruined a number of trading families and sent them out of business.

"There is the Raghavendra Rao Committee's report which says that taxation is very high in certain areas like Malabar. There is already taxation on certain articles. On the top of all comes this taxation on commercial crops. We have to make a distinction between crop and crop. If the Bill taxes only commercial crops which are produced for export and exempts commercial crops which are grown by people for their own local consumption, we have no quarrel. The rich must pay, the tax must be progressive—all that is granted. In South Malabar there is paddy cultivation. In North Malabar there are coconut gardens. In some gardens there are only a few trees and the coconuts they yield may not be enough to cover the family's need. As there is no paddy cultivation in North Malabar, the people there sell the coconuts and purchase foodstuffs. Already there is a tax on garden land. If the existence of certain coconut trees amounts to raising a coconut crop under this Bill, then there will be double taxation. What will a poor man who owns ten or fifteen coconut trees do to maintain his family if his coconut trees are taxed under this Bill? Has the Hon. Minister considered the adverse effect of this Bill on the poor, the protection of whose interests is our proclaimed ideal? If this Bill will make the poor poorer, is it not necessary to modify its provisions? The Government may say that the Act will be well administered. Their officials may say : 'You have got coconut trees. It amounts to "raising a coconut crop" under the Act. There is the yield of one good coconut and a half rotten coconut. Therefore you are liable to the tax.' Do the Government expect the poor man to come and represent to them whether the Act has been properly administered or not? Clause 3 (2) says : 'In case any of the following crops are raised on any land, there shall be levied from the registered holder thereof a special assessment.' It does not say that the crop is 'principally raised' or 'raised for the sake of trade and commerce'. A poor man who has no land but has got only half a dozen coconut trees in the compound of his

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statement made by the Hon. Minister this morning dropping certain portions of clause 3, practically nothing remains except coconuts and plantains. So, I would urge on the Hon. Minister to drop the Bill in the interest of the people."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"As there are only two minutes to 5 o'clock we shall now adjourn to meet again at 11 a.m. tomorrow."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 4th September 1951.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 4th September 1951.

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

1.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Scheme regarding sheep breeding.

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

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any scheme relating to sheep breeding and improvement of the Kangayam breed of cattle;

(b) if so, the amount spent on this scheme during the last three financial years;

(c) whether the Central Government gives any contribution; and

(d) if so, how much during the last three years?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—(a) Yes, Sir.

"(b) The amount spent during the past three years is—

	RS.
1948-49	1,06,142
1949-50	1,65,736
1950-51	2,49,778

"(c) No, Sir, but contributions are given by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in respect of some of the schemes.

"(d) The amount of contribution received from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during the last three years is—

	RS.
1948-49	12,977
1949-50	13,482
1950-51	10,412

(At this stage the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"May I know what has happened to the scheme by which bounties were promised by the Government to sheep farmers to start four sheep farm centres in the State giving about Rs. 1,000 per farmer and then recovering it over five years in the shape of collecting the young ones from the farm?"

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of health. I would certainly not be a willing party to putting a burden of taxation on citrus gardens. They have a large part to play in improving the health of the nation and we should encourage fruit-growing and not throw any obstacles in its way.

With regard to pepper, coffee and tea, I have got my own ideas. The price of pepper has gone up to Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 a candy and it is a paying commercial crop whose price has reached probably 300 times its original price level. The rate of assessment fixed for pepper and tobacco is Rs. 10 per acre. Tobacco is not a food and for that the assessment is Rs. 10 per acre, whereas in the case of coconut, sugarcane and fruits, the assessment is double the present rate. In North Arcot, for instance, we are paying a land tax of Rs. 13 to Rs. 15 per acre. Because we have no water, we are growing sugarcane, and now the Government propose to double the taxation. With regard to pepper, although my hon. Friends from Malabar say that it must go out of the list of articles for additional assessment, I think a much higher rate of taxation may be put on crops which have grown so high in value as 300 times the old rate. With regard to tobacco, I was told a few months ago that one acre of land on which tobacco in Guntur district was grown was worth Rs. 50,000, whereas one acre of land on which sugarcane is grown will not be worth more than Rs. 1,500 in any part of the country. I, therefore, submit that this taxation must have some relation to the present land values. I dare say the Government have got ideas of the value of land growing tobacco, pepper and sugarcane. This is a point which I want the Government to consider.

Then, Madam, this Bill says that this taxation will be given effect to from the 1st July 1951. This may affect the people at every stage. For instance, several landlords have leased out their lands for a certain amount. If the Government increase the taxation retrospectively from the 1st July 1951, it will not be fair to the registered landholder for he could not anticipate a taxation like this. He should not be made to pay the increased tax. After all, when we lease out the land, we do not stipulate that the lessee should cultivate only food crops or only commercial crops. The lessee has got the choice of cultivating anything on the land during the period of the lease. The landlord only pays the tax, and does not allow the lessee to pay it for several reasons which are mainly legal and I do not want to go into them. If the Government increase the taxation now, I submit it must be made clear that the burden of additional taxation should not fall upon the landlord but upon the lessee. All these points have to be considered by the Government at the Select Committee stage."

* SRI K. LINGA RAJU :—" Madam, Deputy Speaker, I am surprised that the Government should have brought forward at this stage a Bill of this nature. When they are so very keen about earning money, it will be surprising that they should have dropped

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the Estate Duty Bill and pounced upon the poor agriculturist for getting some money. The Hon. Minister has not indicated clearly the estimated income out of this taxation. On a modest estimate, it can come to about Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 lakhs, and, therefore, it is not worthwhile to pursue this Bill. Madam, we have been told that this legislation is based on the report of the Subramanyam Committee. It is fair to this House that they should first allow a day or two for discussing the Subramanyam Committee Report and ascertain the views of the Members of this House and then only embark on legislation of this type. We have also been told that we are at the rag end of the life of this Assembly for any good proposal, but we are not hesitating to launch upon additional taxation at the rag end. I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that after exempting some of the items, the only items that remain for taxation are coconuts, pepper, tobacco and plantains. I do not say, Madam, that the Hon. Minister has a particular grudge against the Godavari district, Krishna and partly Guntur also, but it is bound to affect these districts very much, particularly Godavari. I do not know about the coconut gardens in Malabar, but every four or five years the coconut gardens in East Godavari and West Godavari are being subjected to cyclonic conditions, and after every cyclone, the trees are so spoilt that they begin to yield only after three or four years. During this decade we have seen two cyclones which have affected the coconut gardens of Godavari very badly. But the tax-collector is not going to take into consideration the ravages caused by the cyclone; he will collect the tax in the normal course. It looks as though this is particularly hard on the Godavari district, and in this House hon. Members like Sri Ramaswami Mudaliar seem to be thinking that in the Godavari, Krishna and Guntur, the value of land is mounting up even to Rs. 50,000, where tobacco is grown. Even in the case of sugarcane cultivation, the value of land is not going beyond Rs. 3,000 and that high price is due to these abnormal times. This inflated price is due to the demand from a few ryots. But I am afraid that this Bill will have to be dropped ultimately. Firstly, to please Malabar people we may have to drop taxation on coconuts; secondly, to do justice to the Godavari people, we may have to drop taxation on plantains. Then tobacco alone remains, but that is already being taxed by the Central Excise people very heavily. Of course, the special assessment of Rs. 10 per acre may not be very hard in certain cases, but in the case of the poor ryot who cultivates tobacco on one acre and two acres it may be hard. For instance, I would like to invite the attention of the Hon. Minister to the Field Labour Co-operative Societies which take 100 or 200 acres for cultivation. In the registers it will be shown as 100 or 200 acres, but actually every ryot cultivates only half an acre or three-fourths of an acre. Certainly the assessment of Rs. 10 will be an additional burden on him:

"This Bill, Madam, has got some really objectionable features and on a general reading of the Bill, together with the additional

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ One gentleman in the Nellore district has been given Government aid with a view to opening a sheep farm with Nellore sheep and rams and rearing them, on scientific lines.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ May I know from the Hon. Minister the places where this scheme is in force and for how long it has been worked? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ A scheme for improvement of Kangayam cattle is being worked at Palayakottai. Schemes for re-improvement of sheep are being worked at Hosur, Nilgiris and Kurikuppi. Two new schemes have been provided for in this year's budget, one in Anantapur and another in Hosur.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ May I know whether it has not been found that the Nellore breed sheep are the best for meat purposes and if so why the Government are satisfied with only one centre for Nellore? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ The Nellore breed sheep are said to be good for quality mutton.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ May I know why Kurnool district, where there are very many facilities for sheep breeding, has not been selected by the Government? Will the Government be able to include Kurnool whenever they extend the scheme of sheep breeding to other districts? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ I shall enquire into the matter.”

SRI P. NATESAN :—“ May I know whether this scheme of sheep breeding was extended during the term of office of this Ministry or even earlier? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ The work was extended very much during the time of this Ministry.”

SRI M. A. EASWARAN :—“ May I know what improvement the Government expect from the Kangayam breed of cattle? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ The milk yield of the Kangayam cow is expected to be improved.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ May I know whether any attempts are made to collect the wool in places where this sheep breeding is in progress and manufacture woollen goods in those centres and if so, what are the varieties of goods that have been manufactured? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ The improvement of the sheep is being done in regard to both wool as well as mutton.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ The latter part of my question is not answered, Madam. May I know the quantity and quality of woollen goods manufactured by those centres and how much of them has been exported and to what places? ”

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ A separate question may be put.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—“ Will the Government deprecate the idea of starting farms for breeding sheep or cattle in particular districts, because once the results are obtained wherever this scheme may be in force, and once the sheep or cattle-breeding has shown improvement, this improved breeding will certainly be taken to the other districts as well? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ These schemes are taken up in particular areas where conditions are favourable.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ May I ask whether the Government have been giving any aid to those private people who have been running sheep farms, either in the shape of Government aid in order to refine the wool or by giving any technical aid in order to better the production of wool? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ Yes, help is being given.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ May I know what that help is? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ I cannot give the particulars just now.”

River Pumping Scheme.

* 79 Q.—SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to inaugurate the River Pumping Scheme in the State and if so, what it is;

(b) whether a copy of the scheme will be placed on the table of the House;

(c) the areas where the scheme is going to be inaugurated; and

(d) the reasons for selecting those areas?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ (a) Yes. It is presumed that the Member refers to the scheme executed by the Agricultural Department. The scheme contemplates the installation of oil-engine pump sets by Government at suitable sites on the banks of rivers, etc., to augment the existing irrigation facilities and the supply of water to agriculturists for irrigation purposes on payment of charges for water, which include depreciation and interest on capital expenditure and the entire working expenditure.

“(b) A statement* showing the details of the scheme sanctioned for execution by the Agricultural Department in Chingleput district is placed on the table of the House.

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" (c) The scheme has been put into operation in the following two places in Chingleput district :—

- (1) On the banks of the Palar river near Pinayur village in Kancheepuram taluk; and
- (2) on the banks of Nelvoy Madugu in Madurantakam taluk. The Government have since sanctioned two pilot schemes in each of the districts of Malabar and South Kanara and these schemes will start functioning soon.

" (d) These areas have been selected for the following reasons :—

- (1) The existence of assured water-supply; and
- (2) the possibility of having immediate benefits."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" May I know, Madam, why the Government have fallen in love with the Chingleput district and may I know whether it is due to the fact that one of the Hon. Ministers is hailing from that district? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already given the reasons why these pumping installations have been set up in two places in Chingleput district. They are proposed to be set up in Malabar and South Kanara districts also. The Joint Director is examining the feasibility of starting such schemes in Ramanathapuram, Chittoor and other districts."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that along the river Pennar and other rivers in Kurnool and Cuddapah districts there is copious supply of water and if so, may I know whether the Government propose to extend this scheme to those areas also? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already stated that the feasibility of extending these schemes to other districts is being examined."

SRI P. NATESAN :—" Will the Hon. Minister explain how it happens that on an investment of Rs. 36,300 in the Kancheepuram taluk there is an additional production of 1,000 tons whereas in Madurantakam taluk where the Government spend Rs. 69,365, the additional production is only 500 tons? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Conditions vary from place to place."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" May I know if it is a fact that the Chief Engineer has ordered the dropping of most of these proposals after the initial flourish given to them for some reason or other and if it is a fact that on that account some of the proposals in Nellore district have not been taken up at all? "

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

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI :—" In a district where there are a number of small rivers like the Visakhapatnam district, will the Government consider the desirability of setting up river pumping sets? "

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already stated that wherever such schemes can be started, the matter will be taken up."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know whether these pumping schemes are intended for rivers in which there is not enough flowing water or whether they are intended for rivers where there is plenty of surface water supply? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already stated that the places selected are such that there exists assured water supply and these pump sets will be of immediate benefit."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know whether it refers to sub-soil supply or surface supply? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Wherever water is available."

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—" Is it not a fact, Madam, that the Palar Basin Rules are obstructing the introduction of river pumping system along the river-bed of Palar, thus causing considerable hardship to the people that live along the river bed in the districts of Chittoor, North Arcot and Chingleput? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is not a question which I can answer at present."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—" May I know whether the Government will try as part of this very good scheme, to renovate most of the spring channels from rivers like Swarnamuki, Cooum, Palar and other rivers? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Member's suggestion will be considered."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know whether the Hon. 11-15 Minister is aware of the fact that if the pumping is of sub-soil water, a.m. it affects the irrigation wells alongside all these rivers? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Gentleman seems to have more information about these engineering matters than the experts of the department."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask, Madam, whether this scheme will be extended to the Palar Basin in the North Arcot district? Obviously the springs which have been so successful in Chingleput district must be equally successful in the North Arcot district. May I know whether the Government have considered the representations that have been made from the North Arcot district to the Public Works Minister in this connexion? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Madam, if representations have been made, they will be considered in due course."

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—" May I ask, Madam, whether it would be convenient for the Government to carry out experiments in rivers like the Cauvery and the Tambraparni where flowing water

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can be pumped into higher levels and thereby wastage also could be avoided? At present experiments are being carried on only with regard to sub-soil waters."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is a matter for the concerned authorities to investigate and find out."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" May I know, Madam, why the Kullore-Nellore pumping station that has been recommended by all the engineering staff has not been given effect to till now? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Notice."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" Madam, in view of the fact that only one side of the K. C. Canal is being irrigated because the other side happens to be on a higher level, will the Government consider the desirability of fixing the pumps all along the K.C. Canal so that both sides of the canal could be irrigated? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said repeatedly that the feasibility of starting schemes wherever they are found suitable, is being examined."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH :—" Will the pumping scheme be extended to wells also where the sub-soil supply of water is very copious? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, it can be extended."

Clearing of the burning ghat in the river Krishna at Vijayavada.

* 80 Q.—SRI K. LINGA RAJU (on behalf of Sri A. Kaleswara Rao) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state with reference to question No. 478 answered on 21st November 1950 what steps have been taken by the Government to clear the burning ghat and burial ground in the river Krishna at Vijayavada of all encroachments by persons who have built huts unauthorizedly? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" A petition from the President, Bhramaramba Purajana Sangham, Vijayavada, against eviction of encroachments was received in December 1950 and a report was called for from the Collector. The question has been examined again after the receipt of the Collector's report. The encroachments in the Krishna river lanka are *per se* objectionable and have to be evicted; but the Government have decided that alternative accommodation should be provided for such of the encroachers who are really poor and who have no houses of their own, before they are evicted."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" May I know what steps have been taken by this Government to provide alternative accommodation for housing before any eviction is contemplated? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Active steps."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" May I know how active the steps would be and when they would become active? "

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" We are taking adequate steps."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" May I know how many people that were evicted from the locality have been provided so far? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Notice."

Working of tractors and bulldozers.

* 81 Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of tractors and bulldozers purchased by the Government since question No. 615 was answered on 12th December 1950;

(b) how many of the tractors and bulldozers so far purchased are working and how many are under repair; and

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to keep them in working condition and if so, what it is?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) 31 new D-6 tractors and 74 bulldozer attachments have been purchased since 12th December 1950.

(b) 224 tractors are in working condition and 44 are on the sick list requiring major overhauling and servicing.

(c) Yes. (1) Every endeavour is being made to see that all tractors are put into working condition, but lack of ready stock of required type of spare parts is one of the factors that cause delay in setting them right promptly. The spare parts required for the several machines are ordered on a forward indent basis and the makers have also been asked to lay by sufficient stocks at their Central offices to meet all demands. Bulk orders for the spares required by all tractors for a period of one year are placed, but actual deliveries are coming in small and sporadic consignments.

(2) The Government have also sanctioned six special Inspecting Assistant Agricultural Engineers with staff who will constantly be on the move from one district to another for checking and putting the machines into proper use."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—" May I know, Madam, whether the existing tractors are sufficient for the agriculturists; if not, whether the Government have got any proposal to purchase more tractors and bulldozers and, if so, what it is? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" At present there are 268 tractors with 136 bulldozers or bullgrader attachment and it is proposed to purchase during 1951-52, fifty-three more tractors."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" Madam, have the Government standardized a particular manufacture for their purchase of tractors or are they simply buying what they like? "

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ There is an Advisory Committee which goes into the matter and selects the particular make.”

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that so many of the tractors are lying idle due to repairs and it takes a good deal of time to get them repaired? May I also know whether the Government have any idea on the average days of sickness of a tractor? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ Fifty per cent of the sick machines are from the old army surpluses. That is why, Madam, they often get out of order.”

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—“ Is the Hon. Minister for Agriculture aware that on account of the fact that the repair centres are very few, the repairs to the tractors are not done quickly? May I draw his attention to the fact that only one centre exists with one mechanic for the whole of Ramanathapuram district and he finds it impossible to attend to repairs some 60 to 70 miles away in the remote corner of the district? In view of this fact, will the Hon. Minister consider the feasibility of opening more centres where these tractors could be repaired? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ Madam, we have opened two workshops, one at Bapatla and the other at Coimbatore. We have Assistant Engineers and Engineering Supervisors in ever so many places who move from district to district attending to the repairs of the machines. In addition to this, the dealers also help us both by giving advice and providing facilities for repairing and overhauling the machines.”

SRIMATHI A. V. KUTTIMALU AMMA :—“ Has the Agricultural department got a mobile workshop? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ I do not think we have any at present.”

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Madam, may I ask how the tractor and bulldozer scheme of our State is related to or integrated with the scheme of the Government of India called Central Tractor Organization? May I know whether there is a relation between the two, and if so, what it is? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ The Central Tractor Organization trains the staff from our State deputed for this work. The tractors and bulldozers are bought by the Madras State itself.”

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—“ Does the Hon. Minister for Agriculture realize that it is because of the present system of Government having only one centre in the area where the tractors are stationed that the ryots have to travel long distances to have their machines repaired and are obliged to pay heavily for the repairs done, and therefore the tractor scheme of the Government is not being fully made use of by the agriculturists? Will the Government consider the desirability of opening more centres in each of the districts? ”

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ The matter will be considered, Madam.”

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—“ May I know whether the Hon. Minister knows that the transport charges of these tractors from the place where they are stationed to the place where they are wanted, are nearly three times the rent for the tractors? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ It depends on the distance, Madam.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI :—“ Will the Government, while making any purchase of tractors, insist on servicing as a condition, for at least three years by paying a little more, if necessary, for such a condition? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ I shall consider the matter, Madam.”

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN :—“ தலைவி அவர்களே, விவசாய சமூகத்தின் கருவிகளைச் செய்வதற்கு வேரிக் ஷாப்புகளிலிருந்து போதுமான இரும்பு கொடுப்பதற்கு அரசாங்கம் ஏதாவது உதவி செய்திருக்கிறதா வென்று கேட்கிறேன்.”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ That is a separate question.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ Madam, may I ask the Government what is their policy in allotting these bulldozers to the districts? Do they take into consideration the area or the soil that is to be reclaimed in determining the question of allotment? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ Tractors with bulldozer or bullgrader attachments are sent to places where they are required for reclaiming waste lands, for removing weeds from weed-infested places and also for levelling work.”

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN :—“ Are there any tractors and bulldozers in active operation in South Kanara? If so, what is the arrangement that has been made in respect of their repairs? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ I think there are about eight tractors in South Kanara and the same arrangements are being maintained there as in other places where repairing of the tractors is undertaken.”

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—“ May I know, Madam, whether there are any ‘Madras Ministry’s bulldozers’ among the tractors and bulldozers of the Agricultural department? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ I do not know what the hon. Gentleman means by ‘Madras Ministry’s bulldozers’. I do not know whether there are any ‘Muslim League’ bulldozers.” (Laughter.)

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know, Madam, how many of these tractors have been put into use for puddling operations? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ Some of the tractors with rotavator attachment are being found useful for cultivation

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of wet lands. Experiments have been made and demonstrations have been given. I suppose they will be put into use very shortly."

11-30 a.m. SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI :—" May I know what steps have been taken by the Government to make more tractors and bulldozers available to the Visakhapatnam district in view of the several representations made by the people of the area in this regard? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Tractors with bulldozers or other attachments are distributed all over the State. In every district we have tractors with bulldozers."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—" As the Government are purchasing hundreds of bulldozers and tractors, may I ask whether it is not desirable for the Government to maintain a mobile workshop to attend to urgent repairs? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have no information on the point. But I am told that proposals have been made to Government in regard to having mobile units."

SRI K. LINGA RAJU :—" Was any officer of the Government deputed abroad for making purchases of tractors? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Nobody has been sent."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" In view of the fact that most of the districts of Rayalaseema are vast in area and there is lot of waste land to be reclaimed, will the Government consider the question of supplying large numbers of tractors and bulldozers to that area? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The needs of the districts are taken into consideration in sending tractors and bulldozers."

Bonus award for 1948 in respect of textile mills.

* 82 Q.—SRI R. KUPPUSWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the bonus award awarded by the Government for the year 1948, has been carried out by all the textile mills in the State;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by Government on the mills which have not yet implemented the award?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (a) to (c) There is no award concerning all the textile mills in the State regarding bonus for 1948. The Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, gave an award regarding bonus for 1948 in respect of all the textile mills in Coimbatore district. The award is of no effect now as the Labour Appellate Tribunal have directed the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, to ascertain the available surplus, fix the bonus finally and pass the final award."

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SRI R. KUPPUSWAMI :—" The Industrial Tribunal's award was grant of four months' salary as bonus to workers. The mill-owners have paid only two months' pay as bonus so far. May I know what action the Government propose to take to make the mill-owners pay the remaining portion of the bonus to the workers? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" As I have already said, we have no power to enforce the interim award on the mill-owners of Coimbatore. We are awaiting the final order of the Tribunal in pursuance of the directions given by the Labour Appellate Tribunal."

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—" Arising out of the statement made by the Hon. the Minister that the Government have no power to enforce the award on the mill-owners, may I ask the Government to bring in necessary legislation to make the mill-owners implement the award? "

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I am afraid the hon. Member has not understood the position of the Government. I said that there was an interim award given by the Coimbatore Tribunal and on that award both the workers and the management appealed to the Appellate Tribunal. The Appellate Tribunal have given certain directions to the Industrial Tribunal and this Tribunal has not given its final award. Therefore, there is some difficulty in implementing the interim award till such time as the final award is given by the Industrial Tribunal in pursuance of the directions given by the Appellate Tribunal."

Higher price of Chinese imported rice.

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

(a) the difference in price per maund between the Chinese imported rice and the Madras State rice; and

(b) who is paying the difference in value?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" (a) Chinese rice was first classified by the Government of India as 'coarse' and charged at the pool price of Rs. 22-11-0 per maund. From 1st July 1951, the Government of India have reclassified the rice as 'fine' and have increased the price to Rs. 26-8-0, per maund, which is the pool price for imported 'fine' rice. Including incidentals, the wholesale issue price of Chinese rice will work out to about Rs. 25 per maund, when the price charged by India was Rs. 22-11-0 and Rs. 30 per maund (roughly) when the price was increased to Rs. 26-8-0 per maund with effect from 1st July, 1951. The wholesale issue price of local rice varies in different districts of the State but the average price is about Rs. 15 per maund, roughly, for first sort rice. Thus the difference in the wholesale issue price

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between the Chinese rice and the local first sort rice works out to Rs. 10 per maund prior to 1st July 1951 and Rs. 15 per maund, subsequently.

(b) The general principle followed by this Government in selling imported rice at the price of local rice, applies to the Chinese coarse rice supplied up to 1st July 1951. The loss on account of the above is met partly by the Government of India, partly by the State Government and partly by the consumers. As regards the Chinese rice reclassified as fine and supplied from 1st July 1951 onwards, it was sold at actual cost price on a 'no profit, no loss' basis up to 11th August 1951. But the Government have since ordered that it should be sold at the price of rice first sort in the importing deficit district with effect from 12th August 1951. The loss consequent on the above decision is met partly by the State Government and partly by the consumers, from whom a subsidy surcharge is collected."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" May I recall the statements made by the Hon. the Minister on previous occasions that he would not charge the consumer any more? May I request him to reconsider the order increasing the price of imported rice—from China and other countries—from 12th August 1951 in spite of its being not first sort and see that the Government bear the extra burden themselves or share it with the Government of India? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" It is after corresponding with the Government of India that this Government took such a decision. Still there are certain matters to be settled and they are under correspondence. When these are settled, the question of altering the price structure will be considered. As far as possible, this Government are sharing the loss incurred by the increase in cost of imported rice when the Government of India entirely refuse to pay any subsidy."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—" May I know the basis for the original classification of the Chinese rice as 'coarse' and for the reclassification of the same as 'fine' later? Is it the variety or the inherent quality of rice that forms the basis of classification and reclassification? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" We did not make the classification 'coarse' or the reclassification 'fine'. It was the Government of India that did both. When we pointed out that it was not fine, it was graded as first sort. So, this Government do not want to call it fine and they still feel that 'coarse' would be a more appropriate term."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" In view of the statement made by the Hon. Minister that the question of sharing the loss was still under correspondence, will the Government consider the advisability of not putting into effect the order

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which is said to have taken effect on and from 12th August 1951 and bear the entire burden themselves in order to save the consumer, if the Government of India refuse to subsidise? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" The present price is the best that could be offered by this Government. In spite of this, the Government of India wanted that in certain industrial areas, foodgrains should be supplied at very low prices. This Government could not agree to this proposal. The present ruling prices will have to be slightly increased by making them uniform throughout the State. To this proposal made by us, the Government of India could not agree. So, in the circumstances, the prices obtaining now are the best we could offer."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know the quantity of Chinese rice imported and that which still remains in the hands of the Government? Is it not true, Sir, that the rice called in our parts as first sort is much better than the Chinese rice labelled 'fine' ? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" This Chinese rice must have been exhausted by this time."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know whether the revision of price from Rs. 22 to Rs. 26 was made with reference to the quality as it existed or at the request of persons who exported the rice from China? May I also know who takes this profit of Rs. 4, the Government of India or the Government of China? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Price is fixed with reference to the imported cost. The imported cost has increased because of the increase in shipping costs and other charges."

SRI P. NATESAN :—" While the Government have reconciled themselves to an increase of Rs. 15 in the cost of imported rice, may I know why they should not pay this price to the producer in this country and encourage him to grow more? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" We are obliged to pay more price because we want more food immediately. The only thing that we can do is to increase our production and gradually increase our prices also."

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM :—" In answering a question now, the Hon. the Minister said that the price of Chinese rice was increased after permission was given by Delhi to that effect. May I know how this Government have increased the price of wheat without permission of the Central Government as was mentioned by the Deputy Minister for Food yesterday in Delhi? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" The price has increased on account of higher imported costs. The Government have increased the prices throughout the country."

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—" Does it not strike the Government as quite unreasonable and absolutely unfair that

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while they pay Rs. 30 for imported rice, they should pay only Rs. 15 to the local producers? May I know what steps Government propose to take to remedy this unnatural state of affairs?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"It can be remedied by producing more and also by getting supplies from abroad in time, so that we may not have to pay more when we are in difficulties."

11-45 a.m.

SRI K. LINGA RAJU:—"Will the Government consider the question of paying at least a third of the extra price that they are paying for the Chinese rice over and above the existing procurement price in order to attract more rice into the open market?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"Every year, this Government in consultation with the Central Government fix the price of paddy and other new crops and the question of price is now engaging the attention of this Government."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Sir, the Hon. Food Minister has not answered 'yes' or 'no' to the very definite question I have put. I realise that the Government of India will not agree to give any more subsidy. As it is not justifiable to ask the consumer to pay higher prices for the inferior rice for the sake of making up the loss, would the Government consider the desirability of increasing their subsidy and not collect any more money from the consumer? Will the Hon. Minister for Food say, 'yes or no'?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"I have already stated that under the circumstances it is not possible for the Government to meet the loss to a larger extent than what they are incurring at present."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"The Hon. Food Minister says that it is impossible. For what reasons? Will he tell us the total amount of money he proposes to collect from the consumer by this method? Does he think that the Madras Government cannot afford to bear that loss? I am pretty certain that that money is not much and that the Madras Government can conveniently afford it. I understand from the Chief Minister that the difference is about one crore of rupees. One crore of rupees is nothing when compared to the good that they will be doing to the people. May I entreat the Government to reconsider the matter and see that the consumer is not charged this extra one crore of rupees and that they give this sum as additional subsidy?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"As I have already said, we have fixed the price after having taken into consideration all the factors. Of course this price is considered to be high. Whether the Government are going to meet the extra price by means of a subsidy from their own funds and whether they have other proposals to bring down the prices now ruling, are all matters for further consideration. I am not able to say, straightway what the Government will do."

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SRI G. RAJAMANNAR CHETTI:—"The Government are not prepared to increase the price that is being offered to the local producer. Will the Government, therefore, consider the possibility of and the wisdom behind offering bonus as a sort of inducement to produce more and also benefiting the consumer who is paying more, even if the question of fixing a higher price offers some difficulty?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"Now, the Government are following a system of giving prizes for the highest yield and they have other ways of giving encouragement, than by way of bonus."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Arising from the answer given by the Hon. Minister that the rice which is really poor has been re-classified deliberately by the Government of India as 'fine' causing loss to the public, may I know whether this Government have not treated this as a legal fraud and if so who is responsible for this? Is it the Government of China or the Government of India or the Government of Madras?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"The classification has been corrected now and we are not calling that rice as 'fine' any more. I do not therefore see why we should go into the question as to who gave that name to that variety of rice."

JANAB N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR:—"Will the Hon. Minister take note that the people in general are not worried so much about the price so long as the Government of India are able to secure from whichever part of the world the rice that this State needs most?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"That has been the impression created when people want more rice. But Government have also got to look into their own finances before they import rice at exorbitant cost."

JANAB M. S. ATAULLAH:—"The hon. Mr. Mohamed Abdul Salam asked the Hon. Minister to say whether this Government got permission from the Government of India to raise the price of wheat. May I know the answer of the Hon. Minister to that question?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"The price of wheat was also raised at the direction of the Government of India. I do not know why the hon. Member thinks that the State Government are responsible for the increase in the price of wheat."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Has not the Deputy Minister to the Government of India stated that the Madras Government had raised the price of wheat in the industrial centres without the permission of the Government of India?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"I have already explained that in the industrial centres, the Government of India wanted that not only the price of wheat but also the price of rice should be kept at a very low level. The

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State Government did not consider it proper to keep prices high in certain areas and low in other areas though the Government of India were objecting to this. Probably the reference was made by the Deputy Minister only to the industrial areas and not to the whole of the State."

SRI P. NATESAN :—" Arising out of the answer that a higher price has to be necessarily paid for imported rice, would the Hon. Minister agree with the hon. Members of this House that by paying the same price to the producers here, they will have better procurement? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE-VICTORIA :—" To meet the immediate demands we have to pay whatever price we are obliged to pay."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know whether the Government will not be able to attract more rice into their godowns, by offering a higher price to the producer, if not exactly the same amount they are paying for foreign imports, at least a third or 50 per cent of it? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE-VICTORIA :—" It is under consideration. Last year, the Government of India wanted even the existing prices to be reduced. It was only on the representation of this Government that it was maintained at this level. As the harvesting season this year is approaching, we are going to take up the question of fixing the price for the coming season taking into consideration all these factors and in consultation with the Government of India. Of course we have to do it only in agreement or in consultation with the Government of India."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" In the case of wheat, this Government did not follow the Government of India's directions. May I ask whether the Government would also do the same in the case of rice and fix a higher procurement price? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE-VICTORIA :—" These are two different matters and there is no comparison between them. The fixing of the price concerns not only this State but also the other States. Comparatively they have to take into consideration the prices ruling in other areas also. It is true that the price of rice in Madras is low as compared with other States. But in the matter of fixing the price and so on, we cannot so easily protest against the Government of India's decision, as we have been doing in some other matters like fixing of the price of wheat in industrial areas? "

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—" May I ask why should this Government feel shy of fighting for its rights with the Government of India when it is admitted that the price offered to the ryots in the State of Madras is less than what is offered to the ryots in the neighbouring States? "

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THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE-VICTORIA :—" It is not the lowest, but it is one of the lowest prices in the whole country. As I have already said, we are not at all feeling shy in this matter. On the other hand, every occasion is being taken to discuss and come to some arrangement with the Government of India."

Increase in the price of seed paddy.

SRI Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have allowed any special increase in the price of seed paddy and if so, the percentage of increase prior to 12th March 1951 and after;

(b) the total quantity of seed paddy received prior to 12th March 1951 (talukwar) and the number of ryots who had given the seed paddy in Tanjore district;

(c) the quantity to be purchased after 12th March 1951 in Tanjore district; and

(d) the number of ryots that will be benefited by the increase?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The answer " is placed on the table of the House."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—" May I know, Sir, the significance of fixing March 12, 1951 for effecting changes in the price of seed paddy and whether the Government have received any representations from the ryots of the Tanjore district regarding change of prices and if so, what they are? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" On account of derationing and abolition of procurement in certain districts and areas, difficulty has been felt in securing improved seed paddy. Therefore, the seed farm premium has been raised from time to time, from June 20, 1950 to November 13th, 1950 and again on March 12th, 1951."

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the paddy procured for seeds after 12th March belonged to the same variety as that which was procured before 12th March and had been cultivated in the same land? Why should the Government pay less to a man who had parted with his seed paddy before the 12th March and pay more for the same seed paddy procured after 12th March? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There are difficulties in giving retrospective effect to revision of prices. This matter has been considered and after consideration this has been done."

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SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ Instead of showing this unusual and unwanted favouritism to the ryots, may I know why the Government do not consider the desirability of purchasing paddy for seed purposes at controlled rates, dry it up and make it fit for seed purposes in their own godowns? ”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ I do not know what exactly the hon. Member has in view. There is very great difficulty in procuring improved seeds of pure quality and good germination capacity. We have necessarily to give extra seed farm premium over the controlled village site prices to get improved seeds and even then it has become very difficult to get them.”

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

II.—ALLOTMENT OF A SEPARATE BLOCK FOR THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT.

12 noon. * SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ I wrote to you, Sir, as the Leader of the United Democratic Front, for the allotment of a separate block to my party. We numbered 19 on the 1st, the hon. member Sri Prakasam having joined us, and there has been no doubt about it since then. And when I saw you in your Chamber, you were good enough to tell me that a printed division list is necessary before a block could be allotted to my party. I hold a different view, but your view prevails here. So, may I know whether the division list is now ready and whether any new block will be allotted to us and if so when it will be done? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ A separate block will be allotted to his party at the commencement of the next sitting. I shall now take the House into confidence and say that the hon. Member Sri Viswanatham gave me a list of Members of his party and asked for the allotment of a separate block. The membership of the party at that time stood at 19. A member in that list wrote to me subsequently that he had not joined the party. The strength of the party then came to 18. With the idea of giving the United Democratic Front the block now occupied by the hon. Member Rajah of Chettinad and others, a division list was sent to the Press for showing proof. Meantime a new member has joined the party, necessitating change in the seating arrangement plan sent to the Press. I cannot change the arrangement overnight. I have asked the office to prepare a fresh division list. It will take some time to change these things. I may tell the hon. Member Sri Viswanatham that by the time the House meets next, we will see that his party is allotted a separate block.”

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ I am referring to the 1st of this month when I approached you, after the hon. Member Sri Prakasam joined our party. I thought the Government Press was efficient enough to print the division list within two hours if it so chose.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I decided to give block VIII to the hon. Member's party. Subsequently, one member said that he did not

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belong to that party. I had to take that also into consideration. Let me tell the hon. Member that I will allot a block to his party at the earliest possible moment.”

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ I am not very particular or anxious to occupy any particular place. But this certainly affects the privileges of the Members of this House. We applied on the 1st of this month and we could not get the allotment either yesterday or to-day. With full two days' time at your disposal, we thought there was somewhat of a delay in not allotting us the block. Of course if you say that we will get only in the next sitting I am perfectly satisfied and contented. I will be contented, even if we don't get the allotment. But I am thinking only of the precedent that we would be setting up.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ What precedent? It will make a good precedent. The hon. Member wanted the allotment of a block giving names of 19 members of his party. I sent on those names to the Press for getting ready the division list. Very soon thereafter one member asked me to take out his name. This reduced the number from 19 to 18. It is changing in this way. Hon. Members must settle their minds before they give their names. I am afraid, in this uncertainty, it is difficult to go ahead with any new division list.”

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ Sir, on the 1st we were 19. There has been no change since then, and we were entitled to the allotment we asked for. There was nothing for you, Sir, to doubt about the certainty of the number. There were three days, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th and I only wonder why the Government Press should be so inefficient as not to be able to print the list even if it be so necessary.”

Sri S. Nagappa rose—

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I won't allow the hon. Member to speak. His Leader has spoken just now.” (Laughter.)

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—“ I want to say a word on behalf of my party, Sir. We were 21 in April last. We were then reduced to 19 and again to 18. But luckily we will be 19 members in our party. You will receive a communication in this respect this evening, Sir. So the question of allotting a new block to the other party is out of question because we will be 19. I also feel, Sir, that the *status quo* should be maintained in this matter so long as this Assembly lasts. We shall continue to occupy this block till then.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Apart from these fluctuations in the strength of these parties which are really not desirable, is it not better for the Speaker to allot seats at the beginning of a sitting instead of allowing changes to be made in the seating arrangements in the middle of a sitting? This will be more convenient.”

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ Are you certain, Sir, that the Muslim League Party consists of 19 members? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I am not certain about it. But that is what the hon. Member Mr. Raza Khan says and he may give the names of the members of his party during the course of this day. ”

III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS RYOTWARI (ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS) BILL, 1951—cont.

* SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a few observations on this levy of additional assessment. One would have thought that the Government would give sufficient reasons and details before they launched upon this scheme of taxation. ”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA :—“ Sir, when can we expect the ruling from the Chair on the point of order raised by the hon. Member, Sri T. Viswanatham? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I shall give my ruling before the Hon. Minister replies to the debate. ”

* SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI :—“ The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to this Bill simply quotes the recommendations of the Land Reforms Enquiry Committee but the scope of the Bill itself exceeds all that is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The statement only says that there should be a proportionate enhancement of the current assessment on lands on which commercial crops including plantation produce are raised. But when one goes through the Bill, nothing is excluded from the operation of the term ‘ commercial crops ’. Even fruits have been included in the term ‘ commercial crops ’. Apart from that, the very idea of the Government underlying this Bill, as has been suggested in some of the speeches made here and also on the floor of the other House, seems to be to get some more finance. But from the talks going on at present to remove the levy of assessment on lands of over Rs. 150, to remove one item or other to please one or the other section, or to remove cotton or groundnut from the list of commercial crops, etc., and from the statement of the Hon. Minister yesterday that the levy is to go down from Re. 1 to annas 12 and from 12 annas to annas 8 and also the other statements in the Press, I do not think it would be worth while considering this Bill from the financial point of view. If these changes are introduced, we are not going to get any finance worth mentioning. ”

“ The second argument that has been advanced by this Government in favour of this Bill is that it is likely to prevent land from diversion to commercial crops or other cereal crops, so that there may be more of food produced in this country. But as the proposals of taxation are too meagre, a few annas extra taxation here and there, I do not think they will stand in the way of any producer growing commercial crops. On the other hand, the growers of commercial

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crops would take advantage of this position to make the articles they produce cost more than what they otherwise would have got, saying that the Government have raised the taxation by a levy of this kind. If any example is needed we have only to see what is happening as a result of the levy of the sales tax. Go to any merchant. He says : ‘ Oh, the Government is levying a sales tax ’, as if he is paying it. It is the consumer who pays it but all the same the merchant takes advantage of the position and says there is a sales tax and charges more than what he would otherwise charge for his articles. From these two points of view, I think Government have not given any statistics worth mentioning to consider the proposals.

“ Apart from these two things, we would have liked the Government to give some particulars as to why such and such commodities are to be taxed and why such and such commodities have not been taxed, and why crops already included in the proposals are now proposed to be removed, and what the income would be from the proposed levy. If the Government had given to this House all these details, it would have been worth while for us to consider this measure. I hope at least when the second reading of the Bill is reached, that is after the Bill emerges from the Select Committee, Government would be pleased to follow up this thing with a statement showing the amount of tax they hope to realise, the amount of additional expenditure that would be involved in the collection of this tax and the net revenue that would come to the coffers of this Government. Otherwise it would be thoroughly unwise to proceed with this Bill.

“ Sir, two other views have been expressed in this House about this measure. One is that it is a suicidal policy on the part of the Government to come forward with fresh taxation proposals at the fag-end of the term of this Assembly, especially when we are to have fresh elections soon. Quite the opposite view has also been taken by some other members saying that it is only an election stunt. I do not personally think it is either an election stunt or a suicidal policy of the Government. My only point is why this piece of affront at this stage without any tangible achievement worth showing? If the Government are going to realise from this new source 2 to 3 crores of rupees, I can understand it; or if at least they are going to give a nucleus or a cue to the coming Government, then it will be useful. It is neither. I think it is a truncated piece of legislation we have taken on our head to secure more revenue. As the Tamil proverb goes : ‘ கழுதை தேய்ந்து கடனை ஏறும்பு ஆயிற்று ’. We thought of an ass and what we have come to is an ant. We thought of a big revenue but we have excluded one crop after another and we have now come to the stage where we are not going to achieve what we proposed to.

“ Then, Sir, coming to the merits of the Bill, I have a few remarks to offer. As I have said, several crops have come under the classification, ‘ commercial crops ’. Much has been said about coconut. I want to lay emphasis on that point. Coconut by no

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stretch of imagination, can be brought under commercial crop. Lands with coconut crop have not come into existence yesterday or day before yesterday for the Government to say that the lands have been diverted from paddy to coconut in order to make a profit. These have been there in existence for a long time. For the purpose of the levy of a fresh tax, to classify coconut as a commercial crop and say that those who grow them make more income and therefore should be taxed further is a thing which I am not able to understand. Secondly in these days of food shortage, coconut is the best kind of food for the poor people. The ordinary food of a poor man is a few ounces of rice and *chutni* made out of a piece of coconut. It is a common sight to see coconuts being broken and cut into small pieces and sold for quarter-anna a piece or half-anna. Every purchaser, the poor man inclusive, could be seen taking a piece of coconut along with his rice. Therefore, if Government tax coconuts also, it will in its turn cast its repercussion on the cost of food of the poor man as he will be the man who will have to pay for it ultimately. I want Government to understand this also. They are taxing not only coconut, but also mango, another of the poor man's food. As in the case of coconuts, lands growing food crops have not been diverted all of a sudden to grow mangoes. The trees were planted long ago and they have been in existence for years. I can say from personal experience that the price of mangoes has not gone up very much. This year especially we can say that mangoes were selling at pre-war prices. In the circumstances I think, fruits such as coconuts, mangoes and such other things should not and cannot be subjected to these taxation proposals.

"Then, Sir, I want to say a few words about the two crops that are proposed to be excluded from the list of commercial crops, namely, cotton and groundnut. It is no exaggeration to say that these are the two crops that fetch the agriculturist the greatest amount of profit because of the higher prices now paid for these crops. Then why is it that these have been excluded? To-day, groundnut oil is selling at a price equal to that of gingelly and coconut oil. Previously it was selling at one-fourth of the price of the other oils. That being so, is it groundnut that is to be exempt from the levy of this tax? Is the exemption based on the assumption that the producer of groundnut cannot pay the tax or that the price fetched by groundnut is far less than the other crops or are there other reasons? In all these matters we have to be guided by principles. If the Government want money let them levy the tax but let there be no distinction between one crop and another. If the agriculturists have to pay the tax willy-nilly, then the Government might make them pay it irrespective of the variety of crop raised by them. But if we go on exempting one crop after another, in the end we will come to a position when we will be placed with a taxation where there is no equity or equality of treatment and where one man is preferred to another.

"Now, Sir, coming to the provisions of the Bill regarding powers of punishment, as was pointed out by the hon. Member, Sri

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Viswanatham, Government have provided for not only fine but imprisonment also. It is hardly fair in the matter of collection of tax, where the property is before us, that Government should have a right to seize the property and sell it in public auction, or put the man in prison simply because he has not paid the tax. Perhaps the karnam or the village munsif might not have collected it in time. Nowhere in the Revenue Code is it stated that he should be put in prison. That such a provision should be adopted now is a thing I am not able to understand.

"In this connection, I would like to tell the Government that ^{12.15.} ^{p.m.} their aim must be that more food should be grown and commercial crops should be taxed heavily. Sir, I may mention here that in Nerur in Tiruchirappalli district about 600 acres of land which is given in the name of Grow More Food is changed over to growing commercial crops, and betel leaves, plantains and sugarcane are being raised now. No action has been taken in the matter. If we really want to grow more food and, if we really want to tax commercial crops, it is not by this piecemeal legislation that we will be able to realize the object; we should first make a correct estimate of our requirements, and then, consider what taxation measures are necessary.

"Sir, there is one more point and I have done. The Government have also taken powers of exemption. In the Bill there is provision for exemption of certain kinds of land. In addition, the Government here also want power to exempt certain lands from the operation of this Bill. I want to know whether the Government are going to exempt certain pieces or sectors of land, or a particular land belonging to X or Y for reasons not necessarily to be disclosed to this House or to the members thereof. I would like to tell the Government that this power of exemption is unreasonable and likely to be misused, if not by this Government, but at least by the future Governments. If they should have the power of exemption, let them straightaway specify in the clause itself their requirements.

"Sir, as already pointed out by the hon. Member Rajah of Chettinad, the provision that the rules should be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* is not enough. Even in this very Bill this has been recognised. Sir, in regard to the levy of additional assessment on land revenue exceeding Rs. 150, it is provided in clause 3 (4) that 'no notification under this section shall come into force unless it is approved by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly.' I want that similar provision should be made regarding the rules that are going to be framed by the Government in respect of exemption also and if they want to enforce these rules, they could do so only with the prior sanction of this Assembly. With these few remarks, I support the motion in the hope the Bill will emerge from the Select Committee in a satisfactory form."

* JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I sympathize with the Government in their anxiety to increase the revenues of this State, with a view to implement several schemes

embodied in the report of the National Planning Commission. But, at the same time, I have got to tell the Government that the State is not prepared for any additional burden of taxation. I feel, Sir, our State is over-burdened with taxation and the people are suffering under heavy taxation. The present measure is the outcome of the report of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee. It would have been better if the Government had placed the report before this House and asked for the views of hon. Members. We would have discussed these reports threadbare and given the Government our considered suggestions with a view to implement some of the suggestions contained in these reports. Unfortunately that was not done and, to-day, the Government are before us with several taxation measures. Besides, Mr. Speaker, the life of this Assembly is coming to a close and it would have been better for the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue if he had delayed these taxation measures for at least a few more months, that is, till the new Assembly met. Unfortunately, even that point of view was not taken by the Government.

“ Again, Mr. Speaker, the Government have not told us whether they are going to say ‘ so far and no further ’ with regard to cash crops and whether they are going to permit the indiscriminate conversion of land where, now, paddy is being cultivated, to the cultivation of cash crops. It implies that the people are free to convert their paddy growing lands into money-crop growing lands. I am afraid this would put paddy cultivation in this State in a very precarious condition.

"Then, Sir, the Government have not considered in detail the several commodities which they have included in the provisions of this Bill. In this connection they have forgotten entirely to consider another aspect of the problem, i.e., export. Among the several commodities included in this Bill, there are some which are being largely exported to foreign countries and which are earning dollars for us. If we want to import vital capital machinery that is actually required to implement the various suggestions contained in the Planning Commission's report, it is necessary for us to maintain our present exports in order that we may earn dollars for such imports. Some of the commodities like pepper, are very important commodities which are actually yielding us very good returns by way of adding to our own dollar earnings. If we are going to overburden these commodities with fresh taxation in addition to sales tax, garden tax and export duty, I am afraid the prices of these commodities will go up and we will be losing our world market and all of which will ultimately deplete our dollar earnings. Therefore, Sir, from the point of view of export, which is vital to the very economy of this country, I urge upon this Government to give up this measure and think about some other way of increasing the revenues. Additional taxation only increases the sufferings of the people. This measure will not only affect the agriculturist, but also the commercial community and the exporters. Therefore, I say, Mr. Speaker, that the Government ought not to have brought this measure before this House.

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“ Then, Sir, with regard to delegated legislation I have got only a few words to say. I think, generally, when a measure is brought forward and the consent of this House is obtained, the Government with the powers delegated to them go on creating new rules and these rules are often not brought to the notice of this House. It would have been better if the Government say in the very legislation which they have just placed before this House that they will bring the rules which they are going to frame under the present legislation, before this House and obtain its consent. With these few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I oppose the Bill.”

* **SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI** :— மனம் அக்கிராசனாதிபதி அவர்கள் கொ, கசும் ரெலின்யூ முந்திரி அவர்களால் கொண்டு வரப்பட்டிருக்கும் இந்த மசோதா மிகவும் நல்ல விஷயம். ஆனால், அவர்கள் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கும் இந்த சமயம் இப்போதுப் பொருத்தமானதா என்பது தான் முக்கியமாகக் கவனிக்க வேண்டியிருக்கிறது.

[illegible]

“எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் மக்கள் பட்டினியால் வாடிக்கஷப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இதை சமயத்தில் அவர்களுக்கு ஆதரவாக எந்த நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்படும் என்று சொல்லுவதற்கு நாம் செய்து கொடுக்காமல் புதிய வரியென்று சொல்லி அவர்கள் உள்ளத்தில் எத்தகைய ஒரு சொதிப்பை உண்டாக்குவோம். இந்த மந்திரிகள் சிந்தித்துக்கொள்ளுவார்களா இருந்தால் மென்பதை இந்த மந்திரிகள் சிந்தித்துக்கொள்ளுவார்களா ஆலோசித்துக்கொண்டு கொள்ளுவார்களா.”

ஆலோசித்துக் கண்டு கொள்ளுவார்கள்.

“விவசாயிகளின் நன்மைக்காக எந்த திட்டத்தை இவர்கள் இப்பொழுது கையில் வைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் ! அந்த ஒரு நல்ல திட்டத்தைக் கொண்டு வாய்ப்பாக இருக்கின்ற என்ற காரணத்தால் கொஞ்சம் கஷ்டப்பட்டுவது அதிக வரிவைச் செலுத்தினால் பாதகம் இல்லையென்று நினைப்பதற்கு அவர்களுக்கு அனுசூலம் கிடுக்கும். அரசாங்கம் என்ன திட்டம் வைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பது நமக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. விவசாயிகளுக்கு, ஏதாவது புதிய செளகரியங்கள் செய்யவேண்டுமானால் அதற்கென்று ஒரு வரி (betterment levy)யை விதிப்பதற்கு இப்பொழுதுதான் ஆகையால், இந்தப் புதிய வரியினால் ஒரு சட்டம் நிறைவேற்றினோம். ஆகையால், இந்தப் புதிய வரியினால் விவசாயிகளுக்கு யாதொரு விதமான நன்மையும் ஏற்படப்போகிறதில்லை என்பது நன்றாகத் தெரிகிறது.”

அதற்கு எல்லாருக்கும் ஏராளமான வரியை

[illegible]

[Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai] [4th September 1951]

“அதிலும் இப்போது வியாபாரப் பொருள்களின் மீது வரி விதிக்க முன் வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால், அதிலிருந்து பருத்தியையும் நிலக்கடலை யையும் விலக்கியிருக்கிறார்கள். தென்னை, மா, பனா, கரும்பு, வாழை போன்ற பொருள்கள் எல்லாம் வியாபாரப் பொருள்கள் என்று அவை களுக்கு வரி ஏற்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். எந்த வகையில் நிலக்கடலை யை விட தென்னை குறைந்தது? தென்னைக்கு விலக்கு அளிக்காமல் நிலக் கடலைக்கு விலக்கு அளிக்க வேண்டுமென்ற விஷயத்தை எவ்விதம் முடிவு செய்தார்கள் என்ற காரணம் எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. நிலக்கடலையைக் காட்டிலும் இந்த தென்னை என்ன பாவம் பண்ணிற்று என்றுதான் எனக்குத் தென்றவில்லை. ஆனால், ஒரே ஒரு பாவம் பண்ணியிருக்கிறதாக நினைக்கிறேன். ஏனென்றால், அது கடப்பை, பல்லாரி போன்ற ஜில்லாவில் பிறக்கவில்லை என்ற ஒரு காரணத்தால் அதற்கு விலக்கு அளிக்கப்பட வில்லை என்று நான் ஐயுறுகின்றேன். வாழை, தென்னை இவைகளைக் காட்டிலும் நிலக்கடலை எவ்விதம் தனிப்பட்டது என்பதுதான் விளங்க முடியாத புதிதாக இருக்கிறது. உணவுப் பொருள்களை அதிகமாக உற்பத்தி செய்யும் பொருட்டு இந்த வியாபாரப் பொருள்களை உற்பத்தியைத் தடை செய்ய வேண்டும் என்பது உண்மையில் இந்த மனோதாவின் கருத்தாக இருக்குமானால், தென்னை, மா, வாழை, கரும்பு போன்ற பயிர்களை அழித்து விட்டு, அந்த இடங்களில் நிலக்கடலையையும் பருத்தியையும்தான் உற்பத்தி செய்தால், அது இந்த மனோதாவைக் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறவர்களின் கருத்தைப் புர்த்தி செய்து விட்டதாகச் சொல்ல முடியுமா என்று அவர்கள் யோசனை செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

“கனம் ஸ்ரீ கோமால்சாமி அவர்கள் சொன்ன மாதிரி இந்தத் தென்னை இன்றைக்கு நேற்று தேய்ந்தி நாளையோடு முடிந்து விடுகிற விவசாயம் அல்ல. அது வருஷாந்திர மகசூல் அல்ல. இப்பொழுது வியாபாரப் பொருள் என்று ஆண்டு தொறும் உற்பத்தி செய்கின்ற அந்த வகை விவசாயத்தைச் சேர்ந்ததும் அல்ல. தென்னை 50 வருஷம் மகசூல் கொடுக்கிற விஷயம். பருத்திக்கும் நிலக்கடலைக்கும் விலக்களித்து, தென்னைக்கு விலக்களிக்காமல் இருக்கின்றதன் கருத்தித்தான் எனக்குப் புரியவில்லை.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ஸெலக் கமிட்டி’க்கு இந்த மனோதா அனுப் பப்பட்டுப்போகிறது. யிறகும் இந்த சபையின் முன் இது விவாதித்திருக்கும். அப்போது மேலும் நீங்கள் பேசிக் கொள்ளலாம்.”

* SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—“இப்பொழுது எதுவாக மாமர் ஒன்றுக்கு ஒரு ரூபாய் தீர்வை விதிக்கப்படுகிறது. ஒரு வக்கராவுக்கு ரூ. 100 வரையில் வசூலிக்கப்படுகிறது. ஒரு வக்கராவுக்கு ரூ. 100 என்று வசூலித்துக் கொண்டிருந்த ஆந்தக் காலத்திலே அது அதிகம் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு வந்தார்கள் இவர்கள். இவர்களை இந்தத் தென்னைக்கு ஏகரா ஒன்றுக்கு ரூ. 100 வசூலிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள் என்றால், எந்த வகையில் இவர்கள் ஜமீன்தாரர்களைக் குறைகூறுவதற்குத் தகுதியுள்ளவர்கள் என்பதை ஆலோசிக்க வேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

12-30 p.m. “ரூ. 2,000 வரையில் வருமானம் இருக்கும் இதர தொழிலில் ஈடு பட்டுள்ளவர்களுக்கு வருமான வரியிலிருந்து விலக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் ஒரு சென்ற நிலம் வைத்திருக்கின்ற போதும் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு வரிக்கொடுக்கின்ற நிலைமையில் இந்த விவசாயிகள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படியிருக்க மேலும் இந்த வரியை இப்பொழுது விவசாயிகள் தலையில் சுமத்துவதுரியா என்பதையும், அது இப்போது அவசியம்தான் என்பதையும் இந்த அரசாங்கம் ஆலோசித்துப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். அப்படி இது அவசியந்தான் என்று அரசாங்கம் தீர்மானிக்கும். பசுபத்தில் ஏலம் விவசாயிகளையும் நடுத்தர வகுப்பினர்களையும் பாதிக்கின்ற முறையில் இல்லாமல் இந்த வரியைக் கொண்டுவரவேண்டும். முக்கியமாக தென்னை, வாழை, மா போன்ற உணவுப் பொருள்களை இப்பொழுது கரும்புக்கு வராமல் கிராக்கி இருப்பதால் அதன் விலை ஏறிக் கொண்டிருக்கிறது. போதிய கரும்பு உற்பத்தியாகும் போது இந்த உயர்ந்த விலை நீடித்திருப்ப

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தற்கு நியாயமில்லை) இன்னும் அதிக உற்பத்தி செய்வதற்குத் தூண்டு கோலாக இருப்பதற்குப் பதிலாக அவைகளின் உற்பத்தியைக் குறைக்கின்ற ஒரு நிலையில் இந்த வரிக் கொள்கை இருக்கின்ற காரணத்தால் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் தீர்க்காலோசனை செய்து ‘ஸெலக் கமிட்டி’ யிலாவது இந்த முக்கியமான உணவுப் பொருள்களுக்கு விலக்கு அளிக்கவேண்டும். உணவுப் பொருளாக உபயோகப்படாமல் வியாபாரப் பொருள்களாக இருக்குமானால் அவைகளுக்கு மாத்திரம் இந்த வரியைக் கொண்டு வருவதுதான் நியாயம் என்று நான் கூறிக்கொண்டு எனது உரையை இத்துடன் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.”

JANAB MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I understand the next speaker is going to be the Hon. the Revenue Minister, it is my good fortune to wind up this debate on behalf of those who vehemently opposed this taxation measure. Sir, I need not lay much emphasis on the points raised by several members, both of the party in power and those who sit in the Opposition including my hon. Friends Sri Viswanatham and his party. After all, it has never been necessary for the members on this side of the House to oppose the Government's measures simply for the sake of opposition. There have been and there are very important and valid points for the Opposition. Many of my hon. Friends have drawn attention to the very salient point that it is not proper on the part of the Government, just at the fag-end of the life of the Assembly, when we are going to have general elections, a new Assembly and a new Ministry, very soon, and it may not be in keeping with parliamentary and constitutional developments to introduce and proceed with a taxation measure of this kind. As I have already said on a previous occasion, on the Bill for a betterment levy, it would have been much better if the contesting parties in the elections could have taken a vote on this issue and confronted the coming Assembly with this problem.

“Sir, several members raised a very pertinent point with a view to get a direct reply from the Government as to the object of these taxation proposals, viz., whether it was merely to augment their financial resources or whether they wanted to penalize those who grew commercial crops instead of food crops. It is a very valid question and I am sure the Hon. the Revenue Minister will make the Government's objective quite clear. Coming as he does from a backward area like Ravalasenna, I understand the Hon. Minister for Revenue also knows a good deal about agricultural economy. While on this question I would like to remind him of the following: When pressure was brought on the then Food Minister Dr. T. S. S. Rajan to control the commercial crops as it would stimulate production of food crops, he replied ‘Please give the credit which is due to the poor agriculturist. The shift from food to commercial crops is not for pleasure or for money alone. The agriculturists want to have some sort of a rotation system. If they want to have good food crops for a year or two, it is but natural that they shift to some commercial crop for one or two years and again revert back to food crops. It is, therefore, a question of economy with a majority of the agriculturists.’ No doubt, in recent years commercial crops have brought in good returns; but that is not going to be so for ever. It was a mere windfall and

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the good markets that some of our commercial crops are having are not going to be permanent. Unfortunately, as matters stand in our country, agriculture is a big gamble. Coming as I do or rather representing a district like Chittoor where we have a good deal of sugarcane cultivation, I know the entire sugarcane crop has failed completely in many areas. Of course, one may be able to make about Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 per acre for one or two years. Now they have lost the entire crop and the Government are not going to their rescue saying 'You have lost heavily and we are going to help you to make good these losses.' I do not therefore feel that the Government have got any justification to levy the tax on commercial crops at the fag-end of the Assembly.

"I really have great sympathy for my friend the Hon. Sri H. Sitarama Reddi in that he should be in charge of these two legislations. I do not think that it is a matter which is entirely his responsibility. It is after all a Cabinet decision and I feel the one person who is to be blamed is the Hon. the Finance Minister. Here again, as I have said on a previous occasion, the Hon. the Finance Minister has taken credit that if we take the taxation proposals of the various States, the Madras State, of which he is the Finance Minister, will be leading the other States. I am sure he can do it but he has no excuse except his wonderful Five-Year Plan or Five-Year Programme which is yet to be put into effect. From the way in which it is sought to be implemented, we cannot even say whether it will ever be put into effect. The Finance Minister is very soon getting an opportunity to get the views of the general public on the question as to how far he is justified in finding funds for the Government by going on taxing the unfortunate poor people of this State. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say in conclusion that, so far as taxation in this State is concerned, it has reached the saturation point and there is nothing further to be taxed in this State."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I hope the House will remember that yesterday the hon. Member Sri Viswanatham raised a point of order. A little while ago I promised to give a ruling on it before the Hon. Minister replied to the debate. Now, I would like to know whether the Leader of the House or the Minister for Law wants to say anything in the matter."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"We have nothing to say."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Then I will give my ruling."

"The point raised was that it is out of order to refer a Money Bill to a Joint Select Committee of the Assembly and Council. I have thoroughly examined the question. It is a well-known fact that the Constitution of the Legislatures of India is based more or less on the model of the Parliament of England which is called the Mother of Parliaments. The history of the House of Commons is nothing but a struggle to get supremacy over the King and the House of Lords in all parliamentary matters in general and over

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finance in particular. In order to assert that right even to-day, even before the King's Speech is debated in the House of Commons, a dummy Bill, known as 'Outlawries Bill', is introduced in the House of Commons. That being the case, will the House of Commons consent to deal with a Money Bill in a Joint Select Committee of the House of Lords and themselves? Article 198 (1) says:

'A Money Bill shall not be introduced in a Legislative Council.'

It is a fact that this Bill in question is not introduced in the Council but it is introduced in the Assembly. Clauses (2) to (5) of Article 198 say:

(2) After a Money Bill has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State having a Legislative Council it shall be transmitted to the Legislative Council for its recommendations, and the Legislative Council shall within a period of 14 days from the date of its receipt of the Bill return the Bill to the Legislative Assembly with its recommendations, and the Legislative Assembly may thereupon either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Legislative Council.

(3) If the Legislative Assembly accepts any of the recommendations of the Legislative Council, the Money Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses with the amendments recommended by the Legislative Council and accepted by the Legislative Assembly.

(4) If the Legislative Assembly does not accept any of the recommendations of the Legislative Council the Money Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form in which it has been passed by the Legislative Assembly without any of the amendments recommended by the Legislative Council.

(5) If a Money Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly and transmitted to the Legislative Council for its recommendations is not returned to the Legislative Assembly within the said period of 14 days, it shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses at the expiration of the said period in the form in which it was passed by the Legislative Assembly.

"What does this mean? It means the influence of the Council over the Assembly is not only negligible but nil in the matter of Money Bills. ('Hear, hear.'). Our rule 116 says that the proportion in a Joint Select Committee between the Assembly and the Council shall be 2:1. Now let us assume that we nominate twelve members of our Assembly and the Council nominates six members. Suppose seven members of the Assembly are of one view regarding a clause and the Council members who are six in number with the help of five members of the Assembly differ from the remaining Assembly members and pass a clause. Of course when the Bill is referred back to the Assembly, the Assembly has power either to accept or veto it. But do we not see clearly the influence of the Council in this matter? If a Joint Select Committee is constituted, will the Assembly members come to a conclusion in all matters without the influence of the Council?

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Clause (2) of Article 198 says that only after the Money Bill has been passed by the Legislative Assembly it shall be transmitted to the Council. I am of opinion that only when a Money Bill has gone through all the stages and is passed in the Assembly it shall be transmitted to the Council for its opinion and not before that.

"Hon. Members may say that a Money Bill is not introduced in the Council but only a motion to refer it to a Joint Select Committee was made. For that I wish to tell the House that, when a motion for a Joint Select Committee is brought before the Council, the Council discusses the Bill threadbare and nobody can prevent them from discussing it threadbare at that stage.

"So I am of the opinion that a Money Bill, before it has passed all its stages in the Assembly, should not be taken to the Council by a motion similar to the one now before us.

"I uphold the point of order raised by hon. Member Sri Viswanatham and declare that the motion of the Hon. Minister is out of order." (Applause.)

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may also request you to recall the Bill with regard to Betterment Levy which we have already referred to a Joint Select Committee."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The appropriate procedure is given on page 513 of May's Parliamentary Practice. Let us assume that we have passed the motion for a Joint Select Committee and clause (1) of the Bill was discussed by it. Even at that stage, by a special motion of the House we can declare it invalid and can constitute a Special Committee or a Select Committee of our House. On page 513, May's Parliamentary Practice says

"If it be desired that a Bill which stands committed to a Standing Committee should be considered in a Committee of the whole House or by a Select Committee, a motion is made for discharging the former commitment of the Bill and for committing it to a Committee of the whole House, or a Select Committee, as the case may be."

The hon. Member can bring a separate motion that the commitment of the Bill for Betterment Levy to a Joint Select Committee be discharged."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, your ruling cannot have retrospective effect on the Bill for betterment contribution and inclusion fees, for the House has agreed to refer it to a Joint Select Committee already. There is also a specific Article in the Constitution, though I do not exactly remember it at present, which states that any procedural defect also a specific Article in the Constitution, though I do not exactly recalling of the Bill for Betterment Levy is therefore a matter which can be considered later."

MR. SPEAKER :—" If the House wants it, we can commit this Bill to another Select Committee of this House by a Motion to that effect. I must have notice of the motion calling for the recommitment."

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submit it is not a matter of procedure."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We are not on that Bill and I cannot allow any discussion on it."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" As a consequence of your ruling under Rule 154 of the Assembly Rules, which vests the power to regulate business in your hands, I move that—

The Madras Irrigation (Betterment Contribution and Inclusion Fees) Bill of 1951 which has already been referred to a Joint Select Committee be recalled, and that a Select Committee consisting of Members of this House only be constituted."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Madras Irrigation (Betterment Contribution and Inclusion Fees) Bill is not before the House now. Further, how can I allow an amendment to a motion already passed and that without notice? I am afraid such a motion is out of order. The hon. Member is fond of saying often 'out of order', but this time it is his motion that is out of order."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I request, Sir, if I put it in proper form, it may be accepted?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" No, the hon. Member must give sufficient notice."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I accept your ruling, Sir; but I submit this question has arisen only during the course of discussion just now."

MR. SPEAKER :—" But that is a different subject altogether; that Bill is not before the House just now."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" As a consequence of the particular ruling you have been pleased to give just now, this has arisen, and that is why I have moved the motion. I submit no previous notice could be given in this case."

MR. SPEAKER :—" That Bill is not before the House. The Hon. Mr. Sitarama Reddi will now make his reply."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Before I reply, I should like, in view of your ruling, to make a modification of my previous motion asking for the concurrence of the Legislative Council in setting up a Joint Select Committee on this Bill. I propose to move now—

That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee of this House and that leave be granted under Rule 81 (2) for the number of Select Committee members to be more than 15.

I have already given names of sixteen Members belonging to this House, and those names will stand there and it will be a Select Committee of this House."

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Mr. SPEAKER:—"So, this is in modification of the original motion, notice of which has already been given."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I know what has happened to the original motion?"

Mr. SPEAKER:—"He is moving this as almost an amendment to his own motion."

Sri N. S. VARADACHARI:—"May I submit one word, Sir? Your ruling makes this day a red letter day in the history of this Assembly, this Assembly having won its right once and for all time to initiate Money Bills, and discuss them here, without the influence of the other House being felt."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Sir, this Bill has not only provoked criticism from the various sections of this House in regard to its contents, but it has also been responsible for a ruling which is unique and has clarified the real position, so far as this House is concerned. There is no need for me to go into details about the discussion that arose on the point of order that was raised, the replies given thereto and the ruling of the Chair. In pursuance of the ruling, I have given an amended motion, and the names of sixteen Members I have already given are there, and there is no change in the list of names."

"Coming now to the various criticisms and suggestions made on the provisions of this Bill, the most important of them is this: that the Planning Commission's report has been only a draft report, that it has not been discussed on the floor of this House, that it has not been finalized, and therefore, where is the hurry to bring in legislation for implementing the Planning Commission's report? Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members of this House to the fact that the Planning Commission's report takes into account the existing schemes which are already in operation in this State to the extent of Rs. 137 crores and beginning from the year 1951-52 for the next five years. So, the five-year plan contemplated by the Planning Commission includes those schemes which are already functioning and have been already sanctioned. It cannot therefore be said that because the Planning Commission's scheme has not been discussed or finalized, we need not take up measures for implementing the promises and assurances given, so far as this State Government are concerned. There seems to be no difference of opinion generally on the need for the development of this State and for the quick and adequate development of this State; every one wants it. At the same time, I see that some hon. Members of the House want to be generous. Just a few minutes ago, when the question of food subsidy came up, the Raja of Chettinad, suggested to the Government that we might easily give Rs. 1 crore subsidy. He said: 'you give up that one crore of rupees, let the people benefit.' Sir, everybody is trying to be liberal—not that we are not really anxious to be generous; but the only thing is that we must have the necessary finance to subsidize. If we are to have the development plan—

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we must find the resources. That means that we must tax the people who can afford to pay and can really bear the burden of taxation. That is the general principle on which we have to proceed. The Land Revenue Reforms Committee, i.e., the Subrahmanyam Committee, have made certain suggestions regarding taxation proposals and have mentioned commercial crops as one of those that can bear taxation. So, we have taken up the question of taxing commercial crops, so that the desire of the Members of this House and the desire of the people to see that the country is developed quickly and adequately may be achieved. And that is why, Sir, this Bill has been brought up in this session.

"Sir, some hon. Members asked 'Is it an opportune time; you are doing it just when the elections are coming; is it wise?' I have already said more than once in this House that it is not a question of wisdom; wisdom apart, honesty requires it to be done. We must tell the people 'we have a proposal here to implement the plan'; and when the people ask us 'what are your resources', naturally we have to say 'we must find the resources'. Sir, in this Bill, the principle of differential taxation according to the nature of the crop, is brought forward for approval by the House."

"Again, some questions were asked: 'Why has cotton been removed? Is it because Sitarama Reddi comes from Bellary, because he grows cotton in his house or in his land'? Sir, I am indeed amazed at the narrowness of outlook of some of the hon. Members. It is not fair that we should look at it in this way; it is not a question of Sitarama Reddi or somebody else growing something. Members are aware of the criticism that was levelled that cotton was short in this country and that our mills have been importing cotton at higher prices from other countries like Pakistan, America and Egypt. So, let us admit that sufficient incentive should be given to the growing of cotton. That is why cotton has been removed from the list—not because Sitarama Reddi comes from the Rayalaseema area which grows cotton. It is not fair; it is uncharitable to make such imputations. I am sure hon. Members who made such imputations will regret the folly of their remarks. After all, the State functions for the benefit of the people and when certain suggestions are made in the interests of the people, we examine them. It is not done at the level of an individual or of a group of people; it is done on merits."

"Sir, several difficulties have been pointed out by hon. Members. I have noted them and the Select Committee when it considers the various provisions, will certainly go into the difficulties that have been pointed out. But may I just tell this House that I am reminded of an old story in this connection? There was a middle-aged man who married late in life a second wife. He had his first wife with him, and he married a second wife only because he was anxious to have children. The old wife was anxious to keep her husband look old, and so she began to pull out all the black hair from his head; the young wife in her anxiety to see that her husband looked young, began to pull out all the

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white hair. So, between the two, with both the black hair and white hair thus removed, the man developed a bald head. Similarly, are, if I accept the suggestions of all hon. Members—when one wants no taxation on coconut, another wants no taxation on cotton and a third wants no taxation on plantains, etc.—what will be left will be like the bald head of the poor husband in the story. The result will be, we will have no money at all, because there will be nothing left over if we remove one by one all the items in the list. I therefore regret it is not possible to accept all the suggestions. But we shall certainly examine them in the Select Committee and see that the State gets the required sums from some source or other for implementing the plan we have all in our mind.

Some hon. Members asked: 'what is the financial implication after the removal of certain items from the list proposed by Government?' I have got a very rough estimate here, it would come to about Rs. 70 lakhs, including both the zamindari and non-zamindari areas. It is only a rough estimate; the amount may be a little more or little less.

Certain criticisms were offered on some of the clauses of the Bill. It was stated that Government were taking power to make rules, that it was wrong and that the rules must come before the Legislature. Sir, you were pleased to quote the Donoughmore Commission's report and you made certain suggestions. These are all matters that must be considered by the Select Committee. I only want to point out to the House that if that provision is included in the present Bill, it is because it is a repetition and a continuance of what has been there already in the previous Bills; there is nothing new about it.

The question was also raised about the Government's power to exempt some cases and make certain alterations. Some hon. Members supported that provision saying it was a very desirable thing because the Legislature may not meet for some time; another set of hon. Members however felt that it was too much of a power to be vested in the Government, and so it should go. I have already said that it is necessary that the Government should be vested with such power because in an emergency if there is failure in any particular area, the Government must have power to exempt that area from the tax, and they cannot possibly wait till the Legislature meets and gives permission. I say again that it is absolutely necessary that the Government must be vested with certain powers which will really help to implement the operation of the Act in a way which will not be harsh on the people of the State.

3 p.m. "I do not propose at this stage to go into the details in so far as the remarks and criticisms of hon. Members were intended for consideration by the Select Committee. The Select Committee will take note of all the suggestions that have been made by hon. Members and examine them. I move, once again, Sir, that the Bill be referred to the Select Committee, the names in respect of which have already been given."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"If the motion is accepted, I will not put the other motion to vote. The question is—

'That in modification of the previous motion asking for the concurrence of the Legislative Council in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses to consider the Madras Ryotwari (Additional Assessments) Bill, 1951 (L.A. Bill No. 31 of 1951), the Bill be referred to a Select Committee of this House and that leave be granted under Rule 81 (2) for the Select Committee being more than fifteen.

The names of the members of the Select Committee have already been given'.

The motion was carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Under Rule 88 of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the Hon. Sri Sitarama Reddi to be the Chairman of the Select Committee."

(2) THE MADRAS ESTATES (ABOLITION AND CONVERSION INTO RYOTWARI) SECOND AMENDMENT BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Second Amendment Bill, 1951, and move—

'That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.'

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, section 51-B of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948 (Madras Act XXVI of 1948), provides that if the aggregate of the amounts of compensation payable in respect of all zamindari estates falls short of twelve and a half crores of rupees, an amount equal to the sum by which the aggregate so falls short should be distributed among the zamindari estates 'pro rata'. The section, as it stands, refers only to zamindari estates but not to under-tenure estates. Post-settlement, under-tenure estates have always been regarded as part and parcel of the principal zamindari estates, and although they are placed in a separate category for the purpose of this Act, the intention was clearly not to make them ineligible for the additional compensation provided for in section 54-B. It is therefore proposed to amend that section so as to make post-settlement under-tenure estates also eligible for additional compensation.

"Section 54-B (3) provides for the apportionment of the compensation payable under that section among the principal landholders and other persons referred to in section 42. This will include the creditors also, but as the claims of creditors will be settled and determined under section 42, it is proposed to make it clear that a creditor will not be entitled to apply for the payment of any portion of the sum deposited under section 54-B in respect of which his claim has been satisfied already."

* Published in the Fort St. George Gazette Extraordinary, dated 24th August 1951.

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MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

'That the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Second Amendment Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose the Bill. The present amending Bill is brought forward as if the provision of Rs. 12½ crores for compensation to zamindars for taking over the zamindari estates also includes post-settlement under-tenure estates. I am afraid, Sir, the Bill strikes at the very root of the principal basis upon which compensation was fixed. I must, in this connection, bring to the notice of the House that even when the original Bill was introduced in this House, both at the introduction stage and at the stage when it emerged from the Select Committee, the basis of compensation was not with regard to the different categories of estates that are explained in the original Estates Land Act of 1908. In order to explain to the House that this compensation amount of Rs. 12½ crores allotted for purposes of compensating the zamindars is not available under the terms of the Act, to be distributed to any other estates, it is necessary that I must take the House through the terms used in the original Act. In Act I of 1908, 'estates' under section 3 (2) means—

(a) any permanently settled estate or temporarily settled zamindari,

(b) any portion of such permanently settled estate or temporarily settled zamindari which is separately registered in the office of the Collector,

(c) any unsettled palaiyam or jagir,

(d) any inam village of which the grant has been confirmed or recognized by the British Government notwithstanding the fact that subsequent to the grant, the village has been partitioned among the grantees or the successors-in-title of the grantee or grantees,

(e) any portion consisting of one or more villages of any of the estates specified in clauses (a), (b) and (c) which is held on a permanent under-tenure.

Sir, the estates that were sought to be abolished were these portions which have been treated separately. The abolition was of the permanently settled estates. But since there were various categories of estate villages included in the Estates Land Act the Select Committee appointed to consider the Zamindari Abolition Act thought it fit to include all the intermediaries involved in these estates. The Select Committee which discussed these points felt that there were a variety of tenures and the various tenures should be compensated separately and exclusively on the basis of specific items of property and the interests extinguished by the Bill. I shall just refer to page 37, the proceedings of the Zamindari Abolition Bill Select Committee. Zamindari estates came as one

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item, the second item was inam villages and the third was pre-settlement under-tenure estates and post-settlement under-tenure villages and in that regard this is what the Select Committee Report says :—

'After some discussion the Committee agreed to the following proposition of the Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao :—

Pre-settlement permanent under-tenures will be treated for all purposes, including compensation, like villages coming under section 3 (2) (d) of the Estates Land Act.

Post-settlement permanent under-tenures will be compensated as separate estates falling under sub-clauses (a), (b) and (c) of section 3 (2) of the Estates Land Act.

The question whether a village comes under the category of post-settlement or pre-settlement under-tenure will be decided by the Tribunal constituted under clause 5 of the Bill.

In order to decide which is a permanent pre-settlement under-tenure village, the person setting up the claim should file an application before the Settlement Officer within three months of the date on which the main estate is notified. There will be one appeal to the Tribunal under clause 5 to be filed within one month. The decision of the Tribunal will be final. The onus of proof will be on the under-tenure holder.

The work of assessing compensation will proceed only after this question has been finally settled.

For the purpose of assessing compensation for the main estate, only the ryotwari assessments, etc., on the lands in the estate excluding these under-tenure villages will be taken into account. Compensation to the principal landholder will be paid capitalizing the entire kattabadi or poruppu payable to him by the under-tenure holder.

From this passage, hon. Members will understand that under-tenure villages have been treated as separate entities quite distinct from the zamindari estates. Hon. Members and Government will find that the Select Committee went on examining the various clauses and said that every item had to be separately assessed. For instance, inam villages are asked to be assessed for compensation on a different basis. On the same basis the under-tenure villages were treated but in respect of post-settlement villages it was left to the Tribunal to decide the date upon which such tenures were created and if it happened to be after 1802, they were assessed to compensation on a different basis and principle altogether. The principle of compensating zamindaris is different from the principle laid down for compensating under-tenure estates.

"Sir, after the appeal that has been made by the landholders that the compensation to be paid to them is not fair and equitable, the zamindars undertook a journey to Delhi to represent the matter to the then Home Minister of the Government of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He gave certain directions to the State Government. The result was that if, on the basis of the scales laid down in the Bill for the purpose of compensation, the amount arrived at was less than 12½ crores of rupees, the sum so arrived at will be enhanced to 12½ crores of rupees effecting *pro rata* increase in the compensation payable to each zamindar. It was decided both at the Select Committee stage and in this House that the amount of compensation to be paid to zamindars should not be less than 12½ crores of rupees and this amount should not cover any other estate. The decision would have been different if the

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Legislature meant that the compensation was also in respect of under-tenure estate holders. I am not sure, if there are any reasons to apportion this amount to those people. Each kind of tenure has been separately sought to be considered for the purpose of compensation but in this Bill, it is said that the sum of Rs. 12½ crores includes compensation payable to under-tenure estate holders also. Even when the Bill was introduced, they recognized the existence of the varieties of these estates and they adopted separate basis for each kind of estate that will come under the terms of the Zamindari Abolition Act. This is what the then Revenue Minister, Mr. Kala Venkata Rao said when introducing the Zamindari Abolition Bill as it emerged from the Joint Select Committee in this House with particular reference to under-tenure estates. This part of his speech is contained in the Assembly Proceedings, dated 4th September 1948 (Volume XIV, page 614).

"Now, Madam, after we recognize that the zamindar has no right in the zamindari, after we recognize that his right to enhance rent is very much limited and after we recognize how illusory is his right to that enhanced rent, I would explain the alterations made by the Select Committee in the original Bill. Really that is the most important aspect of the question which I shall have to explain to the House. You will find in the Bill as it emerged from the Select Committee several alterations. New definitions have been introduced for the terms 'zamindari estate', 'under-tenure estate', and 'inam village.' 'Zamindari estate', we have to define necessarily. And we have to define the term 'under-tenure estate' because under the provisions now proposed, the pre-settlement under-tenure holder of an estate will get compensation on the same basis as an inamdar would get. In order to draw a distinction between under-tenure estates which were there previous to 1802 and under-tenure estates of a post-settlement nature, we have to bring in this definition. In the Bill, you will find the definition of the inam village. We now by an amendment seek to change this definition; we want to define an 'inam estate.' Under the Zamindari Abolition Act, compensation for inam estates is different; compensation for zamindari estates is different. So also the compensation fixed for pre-settlement and post-settlement under-tenure estates is different. One item of estate differs from another and so the Government have rightly decided that 12½ crores of rupees should be paid as compensation in respect of all zamindari estates alone. Now, by this amending Bill, you want to take away a portion of this amount for paying compensation to under-tenure estates. I ask, are you right in doing so? Are you really playing fair by the zamindars? Can you go back upon the decision already arrived at? Are you legislating upon the basis of the intentions of the Government? If so, is it a fair and proper intention? Do you really mean fairness towards the zamindars? You seem to be carrying on a sort of propaganda against zamindars and your mind is prejudiced against all people

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who own lands and estates. You seem to think that they are exploiters and you are the only good set of people who will save this State. You can take it from me that you have already ruined one set of people and there will be no more zamindars in this State and you cannot create another set of people of similar benevolence to the State and agricultural industry.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Let the hon. Member use the word 'Government' instead of 'you'."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"You" always refers to Government and particularly in the above paragraph."

MR. SPEAKER:—"You" refers to the Chair and not the Government. Let not the hon. Member mistake it."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, as for the Government's intentions, they make a cat's paw of the poor people and use them as a mere slogan. They want to create a rift or ill-feeling between the cultivating tenants and zamindars and they have been doing this more often where they (poor tenants) are not concerned. Divide and rule policy has long, long ago gone and no more the Government can deceive the zamindari ryots. They know and can understand what the Government are doing and what benefit the Government are conferring on them."

"Sir, I am told—I am speaking subject to correction—that recently some landholders of this State approached some influential politicians when they were in Bangalore and requested them to exercise their influence in persuading this Government to deposit at least 10 crores (out of the 12½ crores assured to them) as compensation with the Tribunal as they were finding it difficult to carry on their life with the present deposited amount as advance compensation and at least they must be enabled to get into some alternative business for their living."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member must finish his speech soon."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"If this Bill is passed, many will be affected and will have to go to the wall. Therefore, I request your indulgence to allow me another half-hour."

"Sir, is it not a fact that at one stage they proposed to set apart a sum of money to pay as compensation for inam estates, as distinct from the compensation to be paid to zamindars which is fixed at 12½ crores of rupees."

The House then adjourned for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

(Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"Mr. Natesa Chettiyar will continue his speech."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I was telling the House that the Bill as emerged from

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the Select Committee was accepted by this House, and that had been affirmed and concurred in by the other House. Now, Madam, when this particular clause came for consideration in this House, my hon. Friend, Mr. Kaleswara Rao moved an amendment to the effect that there should not be any distinction shown in respect of inam estates, under-tenure estates and zamindari estates. His amendment was seconded by my hon. Friend D. V. Ramaswami. To this, the then Minister, the Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao stated, what the principle underlying the compensation method was and how it would affect the whole conception of the measure, if a change was made to equalize all the estates. In this connection, I will quote the very words of the then Hon. Revenue Minister, from the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, Volume XVI, 1948, page 219 in reply to that amendment. The Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao stated as follows :—

‘ I wish to state that this amendment, Sir, is not such an easy matter as my hon. Friend Mr. Kaleswara Rao said. The other day, we decided that the darmilla inamdar should not have more rights than an estate-holder. Mr. Kaleswara Rao has pleaded and I have pleaded that these zamindars are mere rent collectors. Post-settlement under-tenure means an estate created by these rent collectors. Therefore, they also partake the privileges of the rent collectors and nothing more. If I get an assignment of ten villages and if I give one village to X as under-tenure, that also becomes a darmilla inam, because I have no right under the Permanent Settlement to create new and separate estates. Therefore, there is a clear distinction between estate created before 1802 and one created subsequent to 1802. Mr. Kaleswara Rao's amendment seeks to bring the post-settlement and the pre-settlement estates together. As regards pre-settlement estates, the Government have given a great concession, that they would get compensation on the basis of the inam estates which is a different basis from the one applicable to zamindari areas. By accepting this amendment we will be changing the whole conception of the Bill and the existing law as it stands, and therefore, I am unable to accept the amendment of my hon. Friend Mr. Kaleswara Rao.’

So, Madam, it is clear from this that this House has decided upon the principle of treating each category of estates on a different basis altogether. Then, Madam, at the time when section 54-B was added, I may state, not one word was said about under-tenure or pre-settlement or post-settlement estates. So when the principle of giving compensation of Rs. 12½ crores was accepted, there was not one word said about the under-tenures. So, if the change now sought to be made, is accepted, the whole conception of the legislation, as was said by the then Revenue Minister will be changed. The Bill will create a lot of trouble in respect of the compensation that is sought to be given to each category of estate. The term ‘equitable compensation’ that is sought to be given to each zamindari estate will come to be disputed. It is doubtful whether the assent of the Government of India will have to be obtained for this amending Bill, as it seeks to affect the very decision of the fair and equitable compensation previously decided. For no fault of the zamindars, an attempt is now being made to reduce their compensation. For what reasons this is being done, God only knows.

‘ Madam, the change proposed by this amending Bill will also affect many other legislations which we propose to make. For

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people will doubt and suspect every legislation or amending legislation at every stage. The value of the assurance given by Government will be doubted. They promised a thing some time back as compensation. Then, all at once, they have now come forward to reduce it; for overnight they have decided to say that the intention of the Government was different from the original Act which they deliberately passed. By such action, they will lose the confidence of the people. So, I request that a Legislature which is supposed to command the confidence of the people should not pass a legislation hastily, affecting the property of the people. I submit the intention that is expressed in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is neither fair nor equitable. There was no such intention in the sections as understood by this House then. I submit, the intention is wrong and ill-advised; it is based perhaps on the prejudice which Government have succeeded in creating as a sort of class hatred against a certain class of people in this State. As a Welfare State, we have to take up so many social legislations. The present legislation is only one of several such social legislations. The Zamindari Abolition Bill affects only one class of people. This is taken as a pointer for other legislations which may be brought before this Legislature in future. So, if the principle of the original Bill is changed now, there would be a loss of confidence in the Government in respect of other legislations yet to come.

‘ Madam, this Government has been very unfair to some sections of the people. Particularly they have developed a sort of prejudice against the zamindar class. During the passage of the original Bill, I happened to be one of the supporters of this Bill and believed this Government and never expected time-serving changes and wrong and wilful intentions.’

RAJA OF VENKATAGIRI :—‘ Is it loss of love or affection now? ’

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—‘ It is not what I expected Madam: I have no ground to believe like that. It is too late for me to change my view. But the way in which Government have been dealing with property legislation, particularly so with respect to zamindari legislation, has shaken my faith in this Government. They have not been fair, or rather I should say, they have been very unfair to the zamindars. I have to say this, because of several things which have taken place. A general impression has been created that a zamindar means one who leads an easy-going life and one who fleeces rent from his tenant. Even personally, they are being criticised without rhyme or reason.

‘ It was expected that this Bill would be referred to a Select Committee. I do not know why the Government changed their intention overnight and moved for passing the Bill into law straightway. If the Government rush legislative measures in this manner and carry them by their steam-roller majority, the Congress Party will be unnecessarily losing the confidence of the people.

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That will be the only result of passing a property legislation like this. This House decided to give a certain sum as compensation to zamindars and no cause has arisen to reduce that sum. I am afraid that this Bill, which reduces that sum, is even illegal. If the Government weigh the benefits and evils arising out of this Bill, I am sure they will realize that it does more harm than good. I request the Government to withdraw the Bill. There is no question of prestige involved in this. This legislation is based on a mistaken intention. No such intention as is attributed now ever existed or was revealed at any stage of the passage of the Zamindari Abolition Bill. There was not a single reference to the eligibility of the holders of under-tenure estates—pre-settlement or post-settlement—from the minimum compensation provided exclusively for the zamin estate holders.

Let me give this information about the pre-settlement and post-settlement estates if the hon. members have not already got it. Post-settlement is a private transaction between the permanently settled zamindar and the other party. If the purpose for which the post-settled under-tenure is given fails, the under-tenure ceases and the estate holder, i.e., zamindar gets back the villages. The zamindar is held responsible if any irrigation work falls into disrepair and for payment of *peishkash*. I myself have paid for the repair of irrigation works in under-tenure estates done by the Government. What right has such a party to claim a share of the compensation? The tenure in pre-settlement under-tenure estates is altogether different. It is a tenure in which the zamindarship had passed on to the Government and subsequently permanent under-tenureship was confirmed by the Government. Various are the complications when we go into the history of the pre-settlement and post-settlement under-tenure estates. The Government cannot play or tinker with the zamindars and inamdars or water down their rights.

With these words, I request the Government to reconsider their intention and defer the Bill or withdraw it straightway. That will be an honest way of doing things.

"Thank you, Madam."

RAJA OF VENKATAGIRI :— "Madam Deputy Speaker, I submit that this Bill radically alters the fundamental basis of the Zamindari Abolition Act. To say that there is no distinction between zamindari estates and under-tenure estates is, I contend, wrong. Under-tenure estates have been dealt with separately in the Madras Estates Land Act and also in the Zamindari Abolition Act. As one of those who took a prominent part in all the stages of the passage of the Zamindari Abolition Bill in this House and elsewhere, I feel mortified that even the inadequate compensation provided for, which does not represent even one-twelfth of the value of our property, is sought to be further reduced by the inclusion of a different category of estates, an inclusion which is supported neither by law nor by the intentions of the

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framers of the law. The Statement of Objects and Reasons says that under-tenure estates had been regarded as part and parcel of the principal zamindari estates. I do not propose to deal at any length with the legal aspect. All that I submit is that they are very different in character and in their impact on the financial consequences of this legislation. Though we may be told that the inclusion of under-tenure estates will not appreciably reduce the compensation payable to zamindari estates and that the zamindars should not be reluctant to give something to their brother-zamindars, I hold that what has been assured to us is already very inadequate and that it should not be further reduced.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the post-settled under-tenure estates are non-distinguishable from the principal zamindari estates and therefore the under-tenure estates should not be denied the additional compensation provided for in section 54-B. Section 54-B provides for Rs. 12½ crores for zamindars. By no stretch of legal argument or logic can it be said that the under-tenure estates were included in zamindari estates and that therefore they are entitled to get a share out of this Rs. 12½ crores. I submit that the question of *pro rata* distribution will arise only after the ryotwari settlement is completed and then it would be time for the Government to consider the steps that have to be taken. With all the earnestness and emphasis at my command, I submit that it is not fair to seek to further reduce this Rs. 12½ crores. We have pleaded with unending patience for an increase. This Bill reminds me of the saying that when one asks for bread, he gets stone instead. That is what has actually happened now. All the same, hope rises eternal in the human breast. I hope that at some stage or other the Government will realize that we deserve a different treatment and do us justice. Some of us have got a little experience and we understand the various difficulties of the Government. Yet we remain unconvinced, not because we happen to be interested parties, about the justice of what has been done and is being done to us. We still hope that by Sri Rama's grace the Government will do us justice. But the Sitarama who is sitting in front of me does not seem to be capable of being moved by any earnest appeals.

It is in consonance with the Kali Yuga spirit that when one appeals for justice he gets further injustice in return. That is in consonance with the spirit of the times. But still I feel that the Congress, as it stands for justice, dharma and Rama Rajya, would, at some stage or other, do this justice to us as it would do to others as well. In spite of myself belonging to a class which I claim is one of those who received great injustice—any amount of injustice from the hands of the Ministry—still it is my earnest hope that the Congress, as it is the only organization that can do justice and do real good to this country in spite of its several mistakes and shortcomings, would do the right thing in time. I hope it would be possible for this great national organization to do the right thing in time.

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"Coming to this particular legislation, I would again appeal to—hoping this time that the Hon. Minister would be a real 'Sitarama'—the Hon. Minister Mr. Sitarama Reddi to withdraw this Bill, and see that these zamindars do not feel further aggrieved, because of his attempts to further reduce them. I personally feel that any amount of argument on the merits of the question would not produce any effect except my effort to touch the right chord in his heart."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Madam Deputy Speaker, this Bill was put in the agenda of yesterday with a proposal for reference to a Select Committee. To-day the proposition has been changed. The revised notice was received by us this morning here. In the first place, I must protest against this very bad treatment of this House by the Hon. the Revenue Minister and the Leader of the House. It is true they command a majority. But they must also be courteous to hon. Members. Yesterday when this Bill appeared on the agenda with the proposition that it would be referred to a Select Committee, I did not exercise my mind upon the Bill very much, because I thought that it would go before the Select Committee, and the implications of this Bill could be well thrashed out in the Select Committee. But all on a sudden this morning this new proposition has come, namely, that the Bill be considered at once. I submit that it would be very fair on the part of the Government if they move an amendment now for referring the Bill to a Select Committee. I would ask the Hon. Minister to see the reasonableness of my suggestion. I submit some of my reasons why this Bill should go before a Select Committee. Has the Hon. Minister with him the figures regarding under-tenure estates? What is the number of under-tenure estates in each district and in each zamindari, and what is their income? What is the proportion of the income of the under-tenure estates to the income of the zamindaris? I ask the Hon. Minister whether he has got information in regard to each zamindari in these respects? The proportion of the income from the under-tenure estates to the income of the estates themselves, is a very important point. When I just casually spoke to the Hon. Revenue Minister in this connection, he told me—there was force in his remarks—'what is the injustice in asking these zamindars to divide the compensation with the under-tenure estates?' The reasons given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons are rather unsound. That apart, for all outside purposes, has the Hon. Minister worked out the effect of this Bill on the estates? I am not very much worried over the change in the motion, not because I do not have any interest in these things. I can look at the Bill from a detached point of view. Take an estate like the Vizianagram estate. Has he information as to how many under-tenure estates that particular estate has? If he has got that list, he will see that if this compensation has to be shared by the zamindar and his under-tenure estate holders, the zamindar will not, in the end, get even one-half of his annual income, as the total compensation which is due to him. That is

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to say, compensation will become absolutely illusory. I know there is another estate in Visakhapatnam district, the income of which is only about Rs. 1,20,000, and the under-tenure estate holders get nearly Rs. 2,00,000 by way of assessments from their tenants. Now what would be the position with regard to that particular zamindari? What is the amount which the under-tenure estate holders get and what is the income which the zamindar himself gets? I want the Hon. Minister to work out these figures in a calm mood. It will not be possible for him now to give any of these figures, because I have only sampled out two instances: I happen to know particulars about these two estates, though I do not know how this Bill will affect other zamindaris.

"I agree with the hon. Member Mr. Natesa Chettiyar in his arguments that at the time the compensation of Rs. 12½ crores was fixed everybody thought of the zamindars alone. I have no doubt about that, for in those days, I also took part in the discussions and debates that took place in connection with the settlement of the figure of Rs. 12½ crores. The compensation of Rs. 12½ crores was based upon the ryotwari income of the estate. The income derived by the under-tenure estates was not made part of the zamindaris in order to arrive at the *peishkash*. That is why provisions regarding the calculation of the basic annual income for the zamindari estates say that the income from the ryotwari lands only is taken into consideration. And it is related to the sum of Rs. 12½ crores. Of course, the Government could have straightway said that in proportion to their present income, the compensation of Rs. 12½ crores will be distributed to the various estate holders, and they could have settled the matter once and for all. But to-day the Hon. Minister says that the intention was that the under-tenure estate holders also should share this compensation. In fact, under-tenure estate holders do deserve compensation like anybody else. I do not agree with the hon. Member Mr. Natesa Chettiyar that this is a matter for private arrangement between the estate holder and the under-tenure estate holders, and that whatever may happen to the under-tenure estate holders, the whole thing should go to the zamindar. I do not agree with that particular contention. But I contend that the zamindar must get compensation, the inamdar must get compensation and the under-tenure estate holders must likewise get compensation."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—"Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of personal explanation. It is not as if the under-tenure estate holders are not eligible to get compensation. They are eligible to get compensation under the provisions of the Act. But they are not eligible to get compensation from the sum of Rs. 12½ crores fixed for the estates."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"I thought I made my point clear when I said that this sum of Rs. 12½ crores was intended only for the zamindari estates, probably I did not sufficiently emphasise the point. What happens to these under-tenure estate

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holders? The Government come and say 'we promised then to give Rs. 12½ crores to the estate holders as compensation, but we now give a portion thereof to the under-tenure estate holders also. Why should the under-tenure estate holder object?' He would not at all object. All that he wants is compensation. But are we doing the right thing, is the question. If I am an under-tenure estate holder, I would not mind from where the compensation comes. If I am an inamdar, I would not mind wherefrom I get the compensation, so long as I get it. But as a Member of the Legislature, I want to see that the interests of all concerned are safeguarded. It is true that I represent some of these interests in the sense that I have got friends and I have got relations who have interest. Only a man who is interested can understand things. There is no use of saying that a man should have no interest. Every man has got some interest. The only thing is that he must not misuse that interest in a public forum for his private aggrandisement. I assure you that I am not using this occasion for any such purpose. I am only looking into the justice or otherwise of what has happened. If the Government had stated then that this sum of Rs. 12½ crores was intended not merely for the estate holders but also for the under-tenure estate holders, to-day I would not have risen to speak, and the estate holders would not have disputed it. But it must be remembered that after all, the fixation of Rs. 12½ crores by the Legislature was arbitrary; it was not based on a fair calculation of compensation as ordinarily understood. However, the zamindars would have been certainly content with that. But to-day I am not complaining because I represent the under-tenure holders; I am not supporting it because I represent an estate holders' association. But I say the Government gave a word to the estate holders. It may be that they gave the word wrongly. But to-day they come and say that it was not their intention. The language was so clear in the Statute. The Amendment Act referred only to the zamindari estates and the 12½ crores. The complaint of the estate holder only relates to that. The complaint of the under-tenure holder would be 'Where is the provision made for me?' The zamindars were powerful; they flew up to Delhi, engaged big legal counsel of great political eminence besides legal knowledge, and got a particular figure. Never in the history of legislation has a figure been fixed in that manner. First of all, it was wrong in principle. Then a particular amount was fixed and the Government now say that it was fixed for these poor under-tenure holders also. But they were nowhere then; they had not much voice.

3-15 p.m. "It was no small thing for the ordinary inam holders to combine their strength and then agitate for their rights, although unsuccessfully. A promise has been made to them. I only ask the Hon. Minister to repeat that promise on the floor of the House that they will get 5 crores of rupees for their estates. I believe that promise is still there. That promise of 5 crores of rupees is not made part of the Statute. But the promise of 12½ crores of rupees is made part of the Statute. Under-tenure holders must

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fit in somewhere. Either they must fit into the 5 crores or into the 12½ crores. What is the intention of the Government? Where do they want to put them? To-day the Government say that they will put them in the 12½ crores list. The inamdars would be glad because from the 5 crores promised to them, other people would not get a slice, but the estate holders would be sorry because from the 12½ crores promised to them, these new people are taking a slice. That is the difficulty. It is only fair and just on the part of the Government to arrive at a particular figure to the under-tenure holders separately.

"My contention, therefore, is, 'Having given a word and having made it part of the Statute that the estate holders are entitled to 12½ crores of rupees, do not deflect from that. Having promised 5 crores to the inam estate holders, make it part of the Statute and give them their due. Having promised compensation to the under-tenure holders, just work out the details and arrive at a particular figure and give them their due.' That would be my appeal to the Government. It is not as if I side this class or the other. But my own impression is that as long as our Constitution is based upon the sanctity of private property, property taken must be compensated for, and that has always been my plea. Just as the inam estate holders are entitled to Rs. 5 crores and the estate holders to Rs. 12½ crores, the under-tenure holders, by virtue of their own right, are also entitled to a reasonable amount of compensation at least in the same proportion as the inam estate holders. I am only asking the Hon. Minister to make a statement that in the case of the under-tenure holders also, he will give reasonable compensation, but not from these 12½ crores because to do so would be a violation of the original Act.

"There is no use of saying that, although the language used supports my contention, the intention was different. The Government made a promise to the zamindars and they should not depart from it. They made a promise to the inamdars. Let them make it part of the Statute. The under-tenure holders are also principal holders; give them their compensation. If, here and now, the question cannot be solved, I suggest that the matter may be taken to the Select Committee so that we may work out the details there. If it is not done, we will be doing a very wrong thing and it may lead to further repercussions. Let us assume for the sake of argument that the under-tenure holders will be given a portion only from these 12½ crores. Will the Government at least make it part of the Statute now or introduce another Bill saying that the inam estate holders will get the 5 crores which have been promised to them? I ask the Government to do something definite so that in the future they may not come and say that their intention was different. For these reasons, I believe the Bill must go to the Select Committee. I would not ask for the Bill to go to the Select Committee if the Hon. Minister can give me the figures for the under-tenure estates, their income, the proportion of their income to that of the estate holders, and its effect on the compensation

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receivable by a zamindar if the compensation is sliced out of the zamindars' compensation. Have the Government got any working data? If not, it would be most proper to refer the Bill to a Select Committee, have some working data, and then arrive at some working proposition."

SRI B. VENKATANARAYANA REDDI:—“ఉపాధ్యక్షా! రాలగి ఆయా, ఈ బిల్లుపై వర్తకం జరుగుచున్న సందర్భములో పలువురి గౌరవ సభ్యులు, జమీందారులకు ఇవ్వదలచిన నష్టపరిహారము 12½ కోట్ల రూపాయల మొత్తములోనుంచి under-tenure holders కు కూడా పరిహారము కల్పించవచ్చునని, లేదా అనే విషయము వాదనాది అభిప్రాయములను వెల్లడిచియున్నాయి. గౌరవ సభ్యులు ప్రశ్నలకు జవాబుగా ఈ ఉపాయం తప్పగింపకు 12½ కోట్ల రూపాయల మొత్తాన్ని జమీందారులకు మాత్రమే పరిహారంగా కల్పించాలని, ఈ మొత్తానుభవించి under-tenure holders కు ఎంతమాత్రము ఇవ్వరాదని, జమీందారులకు వట్టము కాఫ్ చేయవలసిన ప్రభుత్వమువారి ఉద్దేశ మిదేనని, under-tenure holders కు ఇవ్వవలసిన మొత్తముకూడా ఈ 12½ కోట్ల రూపాయలలోనే ఉన్నదని ఇప్పుడు ఈ ప్రభుత్వమువారు అనడం న్యాయంకాదని వాదించియున్నారు. నాకు తెలిసికంతవరకు ప్రశ్నలకు జవాబుగా అభిప్రాయము సరియైనది కాదని మనవిచేయుచున్నాను. ఈ 12½ కోట్ల రూపాయల మొత్తము నష్టపరిహారముగా నిర్ణయించుటకు అవశ్యకత ఎక్కువ కలిగినది, ఇది ఆధారములపై ఈ మొత్తాన్ని రెక్కవట్టినారనే విషయాలు గమనించవలసియున్నవి. ఈ విషయం గురించి ఇచ్చిందే సందర్భములో, మొట్టమొదటగా జమీందారి లెక్కలను చేయబడుచున్న రోజులలో జరిగిన కొన్ని సమస్యలు వలన జీ.టి. కి తెచ్చుకొనవలసియున్నది. అదిలో ఈ 12½ కోట్ల రూపాయల మొత్తాన్ని ఈ ప్రభుత్వమువారుగాని, Select Committee వారుగాని నిర్ధారణ చేయలేదు. ఆ రోజులలో జమీందారులు, ఈనాందారులు, ఇతరత్రా జమీందారులలో వాటాలున్నవారు, అందరు ఢిల్లీ వెళ్లి కాంగ్రెస్ High Command వారితో గానికొందీ, సభారు వలేలుగారితో కానికొందీ వారితో వాదనలను, అభిప్రాయములను తెలియజెప్పకున్నారు. ఆ వెద్ద నాయకులు ఉభయపక్షములవారి వాదనలను విని ఈనాందారులను జమీందారులను ఒక విధముగా చూడకూడదనే అభిప్రాయానికి వచ్చి, ఈనాందారిలకు ఇవ్వవలసిన నష్టపరిహారం నిర్ణయించే విధానం ప్రత్యేకంగా సూచించి, జమీందారులను మరొక విధానాన్ని సూచించి, 12½ కోట్ల రూపాయల మొత్తానికి తగ్గకుండా జమీందారులకు నష్టపరిహార మివ్వాలని సలహా ఇచ్చారు. ఆ సలహాను అనుసరించే అప్పటి ముద్రాను ప్రభుత్వమువారు, జమీందారి రమ్మ బిల్లు నెల్లకు కమిటీవారు, జమీందారులందరికీ కలిపి 12½ కోట్ల రూపాయలను ఇవ్వ నిశ్చయించారు. ఈనాందారులకు ఇవ్వవలసిన పరిహారాన్ని నిర్ధారణ చేయటానికి ఒక ప్రత్యేక విధానాన్ని సూచించారు. ఈ విషయాల సన్నివేశం గమనించి చూచినట్లయితే ఒక్క ఈనాందారులకే ప్రత్యేక పద్ధతినుక వేరుగా నష్టపరిహారం ఇవ్వదలచినట్లును; జమీందారులు అనే పదబ్రక్రింద, జమీందారులు, వారికింద ఉన్న under-tenure holders అందరుకూడా వస్తారని, వీరందరికీ కలిపి ఈ 12½ కోట్ల రూపాయల నష్టపరిహారం నిర్దేశించబడినదని తెలుస్తుంది. ఇదే అభిప్రాయము అనాటి ప్రభుత్వమువారికి, జమీందారి రమ్మ బిల్లు నెల్లకు కమిటీ సభ్యులకు ఉండేదని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. Under-tenure holders ను జమీందారులతో కాకుండా వేరుగా

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పరిహారము ఇవ్వదలచియున్నట్లు మరో ఆ విషయాన్ని, ఈనాందారులకు ప్రత్యేకించి నట్లే; ప్రత్యేకంగా చూడవలసినదని తెలుపి అదేకము వచ్చియుండవలసింది. కాని ఆ విధంగా ఎటువంటి సలహా కాలేదనే విషయం అందరికీ తెలిసికొనుటచే. అంతే కాకుండా మొట్టమొదట అప్పటి ముద్రాను ప్రభుత్వమువారు జమీందారి అనే పదంలో, జమీందారులు, under-tenure holders, ఈనాందారులు, అందరు వస్తారనే నిర్ణయనచేసి అందరికీ ఒకే పద్ధతిపై నష్టపరిహారాన్ని ఇవ్వవలసిన ఉద్దేశించారు. కాని, జమీందారులు, ఈనాందారుల నిష్టావలననేనేమి లేక ఇతర కారణాలవల్లనేలేమి ఈ నిర్ణయనానుచి ఈనాందారులను తప్పించి, వారికి పరిహారం కల్పించే విషయము ఒక ప్రత్యేక పద్ధతిని ఏర్పాటుచేశారు. ఈ విషయము శ్రీ విశ్వనాథంగారుకూడా తెలియజేసారు. ఈ సందర్భములన్నీ గమనించి చూచినట్లయితే ఒక్క ఈనాందారులను మాత్రమే వేరుగా చూచినారనే మిగతావారందరినీ జమీందారులనే పదబ్రక్రిందనే నిర్ణయించినారని, ఇందుగా జమీందారులకు నిర్ణయించిన 12½ కోట్ల రూపాయలు, జమీందారులకు, under-tenure holders కు కలిపి ఇవ్వబడినవి మాత్రమేనని, ఇది ఒక జమీందారుకు మాత్రమే కాదని నా అభిప్రాయము.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me first answer the points raised by my hon. Friend Sri Natesa Chettiyar. He was rather vehement. I am really surprised to hear him say that the Government were very unfair and prejudiced against the zamindar class. But I want to remind him of a few things which he seems conveniently to forget whenever it suits him. May I remind him that I, as Revenue Minister representing the Government, sponsored a Bill which was passed into law whereby the ceiling of 12½ crores of rupees was fixed and it was agreed that even if the amount fell short of it, it should be made good? Let me remind him again that in the original Act there was no provision for payment of advance compensation. After hearing the several representations made by the zamindar class about their hardships, the Government felt that something must be done and they and the Legislature agreed to pay advance compensation. It is always good to remember good things that are done, and not pass sweeping remarks after receiving benefits. The under-tenure estates were carved out, after the settlement. The under-tenure estates were carved out, and therefore, the hon. Member should have been as generous to his own class as the Government and this House were.”

“Next, the hon. Member, the Raja of Venkatagiri, said that this Bill was altering the very foundation of the principle on which the original legislation was passed. What does this Bill seek to do? It says that post-settlement under-tenure estates which are part and parcel of the zamindari estates and which have been registered separately are entitled to share the same prosperity as the zamindars. In the case of zamindari estates, if the amount of compensation falls short of Rs. 12½ crores, under section 54-B, they are entitled to the full compensation of Rs. 12½ crores. Now there is this class of estates which are quite distinct from inam estates whose compensation is determined in a different manner under the old Act, and whose compensation is again quite distinct

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from the Rs. 12½ crores. I do not see why the zamindari estate holders should grudge to see that the same kind of upgrading is done to these people also. I only submit that it is rather unfair to their own class that they should be so chary to share the prosperity which they have got with their own people."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know whether in the calculation of compensation payable to a zamindar, the income derived from the under-tenure estates also is taken into consideration? If so, there would be no question then. But in the calculation of compensation to the zamindari estates, the income derived from the under-tenure estates is not taken into account excepting the little kattubadi or something which they pay."

3-30 * THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" As I said previously, they belong to the same class. They came out of the zamindaris. If they were pre-settlement inams, they will be governed by separate methods of payment of compensation, because inam estates are classified differently. But these are presumed to be part of and similar to the zamindari estates. So they are entitled to share the prosperity along with those zamindars. That is the purpose of the present amending legislation. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the amendment proposed in clause 2 (i) (a) which includes—

(b) all the under-tenure estates in respect of which there is no decision under section 10 either of the Settlement Officer or of the Tribunal on appeal from the Settlement Officer, that they were estates created before the dates of the permanent or temporary settlement of the principal estates concerned or before the 13th day of July 1802 as the case may be."

So the position is clear. These are the classes of people who are to share the Rs. 12½ crores along with the zamindari estates.

"The Raja Sahib of Venkatagiri said that when he wanted bread, he was given stone by us. I do not know how he found the Rs. 12½ crores which we gave the zamindars in hard currency, as stone. I cannot simply understand this statement of his. He talked at great length of dharma and Rama Rajya, and all that. He does not want to do dharma to his own people, but wants to secure dharma for himself. He was very reluctant to share the prosperity with his own people. His argument was, 'Let us wait for some more time and we may consider the matter later.' I say that there is no justification whatsoever for his argument to postpone this matter.

"Hon. Member, Sri Viswanatham, wanted that the Bill should go before a Select Committee. There is really no material to go before a Select Committee. This is a simple proposition. The proposition is whether these people are to share along with the zamindari estates. So there is no need for this matter to go before a Select Committee. Sri Viswanatham wanted to know the number of under-tenure estates in Vizianagaram, Venkatagiri and certain other places. I do not have the information readily with

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me at present. Whatever it is, what is really important is the principle whether these people should share the 12½ crores of rupees, in view of the fact that these under-tenure estates have been carved out of the original estates. If we accept this principle, other details are matters which can easily be worked and which will certainly be worked out. Now let me give certain information that I possess in regard to this matter. The total compensation for under-tenure estates alone which has been deposited at present comes to about Rs. 16½ lakhs. It may be about 17 lakhs of rupees if some of the estates, in respect of which applications are pending in the High Court and in respect of which orders are expected to be pronounced shortly, are also paid. Thus, it may come to about Rs. 17 lakhs. On the principle of upgrading that we have worked out, they may have to get, under section 54-B, about Rs. 37 lakhs. So, the difference will be about Rs. 20 lakhs, or it may come to about Rs. 25 lakhs, i.e., a quarter of a crore of rupees. This may be the amount which the zamin estate people may have to share out of the Rs. 12½ crores along with the under-tenure estate holders. After receiving Rs. 12½ crores, is it fair for the zamin estate people to grudge Rs. 25 lakhs out of that amount to their own people? As clearly put forward by Mr. Venkatanarayana Reddi, it was on this clear understanding that these under-tenure estates came into existence under the zamin estates. So far as the inam estates are concerned, they have been treated differently, the method of compensation is different and the calculation of basic annual sum is also different. So, there could be no doubt about the intention of the Government in regard to the under-tenure estates. I request, Madam, that the House may take the Bill into consideration at once."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The question is—

"That the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Second Amendment Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once."

The motion was carried.

The preamble and clauses 1 and 2 were put and carried.

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Madam, I move—

"That the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Second Amendment Bill, 1951, be passed into law."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

"That the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Second Amendment Bill, 1951, be passed into law."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Madam, I want to offer a few remarks at this stage of this Bill. The Hon. Minister seems to be self-satisfied with the information contained in the typewritten statement put into his hands at this stage of discussion.

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He says that the under-tenure estate holders will after all have to be paid about Rs. 17 lakhs out of the total amount of Rs. 12½ crores and therefore none need grudge it. I would not at all grudge if it was a fact. After all, when the finances affected are so small and so low, the question of argument, law and legality need not arise. The Hon. Minister says that he has no figures to show the total number of under-tenure estates. Has he worked out the total number of under-tenure estates at least in the two estates of Madgole and Vizianagaram in the district of Visakhapatnam? What is their income? Does he know the income derived from these under-tenure estates and income derived from the zamindari areas and what would be the relation between these two? What will be the proportion of compensation and what will be the amount to be given over to those people out of the Rs. 12½ crores? The Hon. Minister says that the total amount that may have to be paid to the under-tenure estate-holders in the State would be of the order of Rs. 17 lakhs, and therefore it is nothing and it is a simple proposition and all that. He can say like that, because there is a majority, or I should say, Madam, that in fact there is no majority and members on his side are all absent and there is only a majority of vacant seats on his side. He thinks that the Bill must be passed. I should say that it is only self-satisfaction. I must tell this House, Madam, that at least some zamindars are going to be greatly affected on account of this. Because they were a bit generous in olden days by creating these under-tenure estates in favour of their relations, they should not be penalized in this manner. The same is the position in Krishna district also. I do not know why the hon. Member Sri Appa Rao is not present here now, when this Bill is discussed. Apparently, people have not understood the implications of this Bill, or they might have been under the impression that the Bill would go before a Select Committee, where they could raise some of the important points. But the motion has been changed. This is not a fair method to be adopted in the Assembly. We wanted that the Bill should go before a Select Committee where all these things could be discussed with advantage. If it was a fact, as the Hon. Minister said that financially it would matter very little, apart from the question of legal interpretation, I would not mind it. But I know the nature of these two zamindari estates in particular and I also know that if this Bill is passed, it will prove very disastrous to some of the zamindars. The Hon. Minister may ask, 'Why do you care for the zamindars?' I may tell him that I have no particular interest in any zamindar. I am mentioning these things only as a Member of the Assembly. Just as I have been speaking on cotton, groundnut, mango, betel leaves, etc.,—none of which I possess myself—I am speaking on zamindars also. We must look into these things properly before taking any decision.

"The Hon. Minister admits that, except the information that he has given and which I should say is very vague, he has no

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details about the number of under-tenure estates in the State. I ask again, what is the number of under-tenure estates in this State. The Hon. Minister has no information. What is the nature of these estates? He has no information. All that he is able to tell us is that he has deposited a certain amount with the Tribunals towards their compensation. After all, the whole system of working and arriving at the income of the zamini estates and under-tenure estates is a big mess made under the Estates Abolition Act. They have had practically no machinery in certain areas. I should say that the reduction of rent was done in the crudest fashion in the most civilized of days. Never have things been done in such an unsatisfactory manner as the reduction has been carried out. I know of one case, where an estate has been taken over by the Government with an arrear of about Rs. 15,000. I want the Hon. Minister to kindly hear me. I was telling of an instance where the Government have taken over a particular estate with an arrear of Rs. 15,000. It is a small estate. I am not speaking on behalf of any big estates, because they may be able to get on without difficulty. But this is a small estate which the Government have taken over. Its annual income is about Rs. 15,000. After one and a half years, the Government were able to collect only Rs. 500 from this estate, and the peishkush amount due to the Government was deducted from the advance compensation which was deposited before the Tribunals. When the Government were asked as to what they have done with the arrears and why they have not collected the arrears, they come with the reply that they are overworked and they are getting returns and all that. In the case of another estate, which the Government have taken over, the arrears were to the tune of Rs. 60,000. After a year and a half and after the estate-holder made repeated requests to the Government and asked for some information as to what has been done with regard to his estate, the officers of this Government came with the reply that they have remitted Rs. 5. This is most undesirable. The Government have ceased to function on democratic principles. Now they are free from any judicial review. That is why I have always been demanding on the floor of this House that all acts of the executive should be subject to judicial review at one stage or other. But the whole train has been derailed and things are going on in their own way. Even after my repeated requests in this House, the Hon. Minister is not in a position to give full details with regard to these under-tenure estates, except the vague information given by him. He seems to be satisfied with that information, because I know the number of under-tenure estates in the two zamindaris mentioned by me and as such I am sure that the figure given by the Hon. Minister is grossly an under-estimate. I think there is something wrong somewhere. The original Act is itself very clear which says that the zamindari estates are entitled to a compensation of Rs. 12½ crores. I say that it is most unjust to read into that Act and put

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their own interpretation by saying that their intention was that the under-tenure estate-holders should be given something out of this Rs. 12½ crores. To-morrow they may say anything to anybody and the drilled majority will simply say 'yes'. If the Government were to say that their intention was this and they did not mean anything else, the majority on their side will simply say as one of the English poets wrote,

3-45
p.m.

'I have always voted at my party's call

I have never thought of thinking for myself at all.'

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—" Madam, Deputy Speaker, I have nothing more to say than to enter my strong protest against this Bill. It is really illegal. The Hon. Minister in his reply stated that I got excited. I believe he is more excited than I though I have every reason for getting excited.

" Madam Deputy Speaker, the most illegal thing has been done now. The most unconstitutional thing is being done by this Legislature.

" With regard to administration that has been carried on in respect of the Abolition Act, I should say that it is worst confounded. The way in which collections have been made by the Managers is very inefficient. The office is not properly equipped. No relief is given to the zamindars of abolished estates. They are being driven to hardships after hardships. They are reduced to such a position when the ordinary right of a common citizen is being denied to them. This is not quite consistent with what we call a 'Welfare State'. I am sorry to say this.

" With this observation, I enter my protest in respect of the passing of this Bill without even going through the Select Committee stage."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Madam, I can very well say that my comrade the hon. Member Sri Natesa Chettiyar

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I want to raise a point of order. Is the word 'comrade' that the Hon. Minister frequently uses parliamentary?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I meant, a friend."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister has used the word 'comrade'. Of course he has used it meaning only a 'friend'."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The hon. Member Sri Viswanatham stated that I had not furnished details in respect of the number of under-tenure estates. May I submit, Madam, as I have observed on a previous occasion, that once the

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principle is accepted the details are always available? Out of a total sum of Rs. 2.77 crores deposited as compensation for zamindari estates and under-tenure estates, the share of under-tenure estates was Rs. 16,53,751. On this basis the ultimate upgrading of under-tenure estates has been worked as Rs. 37,58,525.

" This is the figure that has been furnished to me by the department of Revenue which deals with the subject and it is quite probable that there are a few more estates for which deposits will have to be made. That is why I said it may go to about Rs. 17 lakhs and the figure on the other side may probably go up ultimately. The sharing of the zamindars with the under-tenure estates will be near about twenty to twenty-five lakhs of rupees. Therefore I say that it is not right for the hon. Member to object to this principle, because as I said they form part and parcel of the zamindari estates. That is the principle on which the Bill has been put forward. I have nothing more to add. With regard to certain other objections that have been raised regarding the method of collection, arrears and payment of compensation, I can only tell hon. Members that this aspect of the matter is being carefully looked into by this Government. The Government are trying to speed up collections and payments."

SRI M. R. APPA RAO :—" I want one information, Madam. The Hon. Minister said that about sixteen and odd lakhs of rupees are to be paid as compensation to the under-tenure estates. I just want to know from the Hon. Minister whether this amount of sixteen and odd lakhs of rupees is to be paid from the first deposit or is it to be paid from subsequent deposits?"

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" As I said previously the total compensation deposited in respect of under-tenure estates is Rs. 16,53,751. I say that ultimately the dues to be paid to the under-tenure estates including interests, etc., would work to about Rs. 25 lakhs.

" Out of the total amount of 12½ crores of rupees to be paid as compensation for the estates taken over, the under-tenure estates would have to share with the zamindari estates.

" That is why in the Bill it has been put forward that these 12 and odd crores of rupees be shared both by the zamindari estates and the said under-tenure estates.

" I now move, Madam—

'That the Bill be passed into law.'

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The question is—
'That the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Second Amendment Bill, 1951, be passed into law.'
The motion was carried and the Bill was passed into law.
(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

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(3) THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES, DISTRICT BOARDS
AND VILLAGE PANCHAYATS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951.

* THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras District Municipalities, District Boards and Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill *, 1951, and move—

'That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.'

"Section 44 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 (Madras Act V of 1920) and section 51 of the Madras District Boards Act, 1920 (Madras Act XIV of 1920) before they were amended by Madras Act II of 1947, provided that every person whose name was included in that part of the electoral roll for any territorial constituency of the Madras Legislative Assembly, which related to the area within the jurisdiction of the local body should be entitled to be included in the electoral roll for the municipal council or local board concerned. As complaints were received that the Assembly electoral rolls contained omissions and were defective in other respects, those sections were amended by Madras Act II of 1947, so as to enable persons who were qualified to be included but were omitted to be included in those electoral rolls, to be included in the electoral roll for the municipal council or local board concerned. A similar provision has been embodied in section 12 of the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950.

"The position has now changed. The electoral rolls prepared under the new Constitution for the State Legislative Assembly will be revised and corrected annually and maintained up to date. It is, therefore, no longer necessary to provide for the entertainment of claims and objections before the publication of the electoral roll for a municipal council, district board or panchayat. Hence it will be sufficient if the portion of the Assembly rolls and the alterations therein which relate to the area within the jurisdiction of a local body are published as the electoral roll for the local body and as alterations in such roll. The Bill is intended to achieve this object by amending the relevant sections of the Madras District Municipalities, Madras District Boards and Madras Village Panchayats Acts.

"Provision is also made in the Bill for the rectification of any clerical or printing mistakes found in the roll for the local body, for the purpose of bringing it into accord with the electoral roll for the relevant Assembly constituency.

"Power has also been taken to bring the amendments into force in different areas on different dates as the electoral rolls relating to different areas in the State may not be published on one and the same date.

"I commend the Bill, Sir, for the acceptance of the House."

* Published in the Fort St. George Gazette Extraordinary, dated 27th August 1951.

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MR. SPEAKER :—"The question is—

'That the Madras District Municipalities, District Boards and Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 1951, be taken into consideration at once.'"

The motion was carried.

The preamble, clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—"Sir, I now move—

'That the Bill be passed into law.'"

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

MR. SPEAKER :—"I now adjourn the House till 11 o'clock on 19th October 1951."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Friday, the 19th October 1951.

[4th September 1951]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 79 asked by Sri P. Venkatasubbiah at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 4th September 1951, page 725 supra.]

Statement showing the details of River Pumping Schemes sanctioned.

Name of the district in which the scheme has been introduced and location.	Brief description.	Number of pumpsets to be used.	Cost.				Recoveries from ryots.	Share of Union Govt. and State Govt.	Additional crop acreage to be benefited and for which water charges will be levied.	Additional production.
			Recurring.	Non-recurring.	Total.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	(10) tons a year.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	(10)
CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT.										
(a) River Pumping Scheme near Pinayur village in Kancheepuram taluk.	This scheme has been prepared for pumping water from the Palar river-bed where copious supplies are available from the underground resources near Pinayur, village to augment the meagre flow in the river, spring channels and to ensure a steady supply for the entire area of 300 acres of wet land in the village. For this purpose the existing natural depression formed due to the scouring action of floods in the river-bed almost at the junction of the river Palar and the existing spring channel is proposed to be utilized.	Three sets each containing three oil engine pump-sets will be installed and two sets will work at a time for about 18-20 hours a day. The third set will be standby unit.	12,500	23,800	36,300	11,706	1,603	500	1,000	1,000 tons a year.
(b) River Pumping Scheme at Nelvay madugu located in the sector between the river Kiliyar on one side and Neelanagalam and Parayanakulam tanks on the other side, in Madurantakam taluk.	It is stated that the storage water in the madugu is about 5½ million cubic feet and is not at present being used for irrigation for want of lifting outfits. By erecting 3 pumping stands on selected sites over the stretch of 2½ miles length of madugu with good springs running along Palar basin, it is proposed to raise two wet crops on an extent of 270 acres resulting in 500 tons of foodgrains on a recurring basis.	Three pumpsets with one standby unit. Each set is expected to work for 16 hours a day by shift.	29,685	39,700	69,385	17,804	8,902	420	50	50 tons a year.

APPENDIX II.

[4th September 1951]

[Vide answer to starred question No. 84 asked by Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 4th September 1951, page 739 supra.]

(a) Yes. Under the scheme for procurement and distribution of its improved paddy seeds formulated by the Government in pursuance of the Three-Year Programme for Intensive Cultivation Schemes, an addition to the price of seed paddy known as "Seed Farm Premium" is allowed to the seedfarm ryots in accordance with the rates fixed by the Government from time to time. The seedfarm premia allowed for the purchase of paddy seeds prior to 12th March 1951 and after are as follows:—

	Premium allowed before 12th March 1951.	Premium allowed from 12th March 1951.
Samba seeds	15 per cent over the notified village-site price.	25 per cent over the notified village-site price.
Kuruvai seeds	17½ per cent over the notified village-site price.	27½ per cent over the notified village-site price.

(b) The particulars are given below:—

Name of taluk.	Quantity of paddy seeds purchased prior to 12th March 1951 (from 1st July 1950) (bags of 124 lb.).	Number of ryots who had given the stocks.
(1)	(2)	(3)
I. Pattukkottai division—		
1 Arantangi	204	5
2 Pattukkottai	2,603	33
3 Tiruthurai-pundi	28	2
4 Nagapattinam	2,063	17
5 Mannargudi	1,110	7
II. Tanjore division—		
1 Tanjore	3,750½	23
2 Papanasam	1,321	11
3 Kumbakonam	3,036	24
4 Mayuram	2,247½	34
5 Sirkali	2,222	32
6 Nannilam	3,169	40
Total	22,753½	228

[4th September 1951]

(c) & (d) The particulars relating to the quantities of paddy seed purchased from seedfarm ryots after 12th March 1951 up to the end of the fasli (30th June 1951) and the number of ryots benefited are furnished below. It is not possible at this stage to estimate correctly the quantity of seed to be procured from the seedfarm ryots after 30th June 1951 and the number of ryots that will be benefited:—

Name of taluk. —	Quantity of paddy seeds purchased from 12th March 1951 (bags of 124 lb.) (up to 30th June 1951).	Number of ryots.
(1)	(2)	(3)
I Pattukkottai division—		
1 Arantangi		
2 Pattukkottai	1,537	28
3 Tiruthuraipundi	4,462	20
4 Nagapattinam	7,231	6
5 Mannargudi	4,260½	20
Total	17,493½	74
II. Tanjore division—		
1 Tanjore	3,347½	32
2 Papanasam	5,178	65
3 Kumbakonam	5,118	52
4 Mayuram	2,982	23
5 Sirkali	3,350	33
6 Nannilam	4,868	59
Total	24,843½	263

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the people to increase production when every act of the Government is simply suppressing their enthusiasm for work or industry and consequently we are actually losing in production.

"Again, coming to the question of food, the Government actually committed a crime when they removed rural rationing. I ask whether after removing rural rationing, they are actually following it up? What is the object of opening a number of relief shops? That means that rationing is once again coming into those rural areas. Therefore, why not the Government say: 'we shall once more have rationing in these parts.' Prices of foodstuffs are going up in the de-rationed rural areas, and even where there is food, as the purchasing power of the poor man is going down from day to day, he is not able to purchase his food requirements. All that is due to the activities of the Government. Therefore, I say that whenever Government adopt a policy, they must think about their past experiences and see to it that they formulate a policy which will be really beneficial to the people concerned. At present, they are not doing like that. Hundreds and thousands of relief shops and fair-price shops have come into existence in areas which have been de-rationed. I submit that if the Government really want to save the people in those areas, they must introduce rationing there once again. They are now opening gruel centres; but the public are not coming forward to co-operate in this respect, to the extent the Government expected. Government thought that these gruel centres would become quite successful; but how will the people have the enthusiasm to co-operate when the Government are not prepared to fix the prices the people want, when no facilities are given to the cultivator to increase production? Therefore, I say these schemes are not going to help us much. No doubt I have got the greatest admiration for the development of springheads in several districts, but the work is not properly done. The Kudimaramat Act stands in the way; it says that people must come forward and contribute labour in order to make the springheads really successful. But the labour problem is difficult; when in these days people have to go to places far away from their own and earn a living, how is it possible for them to come forward to repair the channels and develop the springheads? I suggest that Government must not think about the Kudimaramat Act if they really want to confer any benefit on the people by the development of springheads. Government must see to it that water is taken to the places where it is required, without thinking about the provisions of the Kudimaramat Act.

"Then I come, Madam, to my own handloom industry. I must thank the Government and particularly the Hon. Minister for Industries for not having spared any effort to see that sufficient yarn was supplied to this State and the weavers got enough yarn. Although the position has lately improved, another problem is now cropping up, viz., the problem of marketing the handloom products. All the overseas countries to which we have been exporting our handloom products are now saying: 'we do not want your products' and thus we are actually losing those markets now. Burma has refused to purchase handloom goods. Malaya and Singapore are not taking. Indonesia has actually imposed a ban on

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the import of these products into that country; and Ceylon, by its open general licence system, has glutted its markets with foreign textiles and is not now anxious to purchase our handloom products. And even in the Middle East and West Africa, we are losing our market. If the marketing conditions are to improve, Government must somehow come forward with their help. I have often suggested on the floor of this House that our Government must move the Government of India to send trade delegations to the various overseas countries where our handloom products found a good market in the past. All my proposals have fallen on deaf ears and Government have not come forward and formulated any scheme for the marketing of our handloom products.

"Madam, there are several other points I should like to refer to, but unfortunately the time allotted to me is not sufficient to cover all the points raised in His Excellency's Address. The Governor has told us that several Bills are likely to come up before the House. As I have often said, Bills come thick and fast, on a mass production scale. Further, they are being rushed through the House, and Members are asked to vote on the Bills whether they agree with all the provisions of the Bill or not. In view of this sickening haste again and again the Government have to come forward requesting the House to accept several amendments to several Acts which the House has already passed. I, therefore, wish that the Government give some more time to Members for the consideration of the Bills which they are placing before the House.

"Before I conclude, Madam, I should like to make a reference to the party in power. Whether some of my friends in this House like it or not, I have to say that the Congress party is the only well-organized party in the country and it is the only party that could deliver the goods in this country. When I say this, I am not unconscious or unaware of the fact that fissiparous tendencies are now overtaking this organization. Personal jealousies, petty quarrels, currents and cross-currents of power politics and group politics are undermining the very status, the very honour and the very prestige of that organization. If something is not done immediately, if some supreme effort is not made by those in authority in order to clean the Augean stables, I am afraid order and security in this country would be in jeopardy and it may not be a surprise if we even lose our hard-won freedom. Visualising this perhaps Mahatmaji, when India attained her freedom, counselled the voluntary liquidation, voluntary dissolution of the Congress party. In the flush of victory, drunk with power, Congressmen did not listen to the wisdom of those prophetic words; if only they had listened to those words, the Congress organization would have now gone into world history. Men would admire and adore and preserve for generations the remembrance of an organization which has been sanctified by the sacrifices and services of India's noblest sons and daughters; but to-day, the Congressman stands condemned; the much-respected Congressman is an object of ridicule in the streets of India. (Cries of no, no.) Even now it is not too late; you can give up your old bias and prejudices, you can understand your friends from your enemies, you can plan your future

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